



Murder in the Vatican

page 14

PARENTING AND GLASSES



Count me out Nigella Lawson page 17

Inter/face



PLUS Crème 12 PAGES OF JOBS



The hottest tickets this summer

From The X-Files movie to Simon Rattle's farewell page 30

Redwood said Hague 'was worst Tory leadership candidate'

BY PHILIP WEBSTER POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN REDWOOD responded to the election of William Hague as Conservative leader with the gibe that Tory MPs had chosen the worst of the six candidates on offer...

President of the Board of Trade and the allegations that he has such a poor opinion of his leader are an obvious embarrassment to the Tories in an election week.

Peter Lilley, Michael Howard, and Stephen Dorrell. He was eliminated on the second ballot and then threw his weight behind Mr Clarke in an unlikely combination for the final ballot against Mr Hague.

had made "cruel insinuations" about the bachelor nature of Hague's circle. He says that Mr Duncan Smith was crass in talking about the "bachelor boys" running the campaign.

Mr Williams goes on to say that Mr Duncan Smith's chairmanship of Mr Redwood's campaign had been used as a vehicle for his own ambitions. He had been slow to declare for him because he had considered standing himself.

Our recollections are clearly very different to Hywel's. This book is nothing to do with John. Hywel must answer for his own allegations.



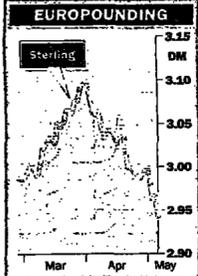
"Do you think there'll ever be peace within the Tory Party?"

Bundesbank expected to raise rates

Sterling falls as Blair hails deal on euro

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY AND PHILIP WEBSTER

EXPORTERS breathed a sigh of relief as the pound fell yesterday amid speculation that German interest rates will rise to smoothe the launch of the euro.



decision was the right one for Britain and Europe.

But William Hague, in one of his most effective Commons performances as leader, accused Mr Blair of presiding over a fiasco.

Mr Hague went on to tell Mr Blair that when he should have spoken up, he remained silent.

The Prime Minister insisted throughout that Mr Duisenberg, who was "plainly the right man to launch the euro" had indicated for some time that he did not want to serve the full eight years.

Kohl damaged, page 12  
Tourist rates, page 24  
Commentary, page 25  
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Janet Bush, page 27

lands, to also raise their interest rates.

The first evidence came with a shock rise in Danish rates, boosting the mark and sending the pound down nearly two and a half pence.

The threat of an interest rate rise, however, sent stock prices down. In Frankfurt, the Dax closed down 111.55 at 5226.20.

In the Commons, Mr Blair pointed to the markets' reaction as evidence that the fundamentals were right.

Sterling had been expected to rise after the "fudge" over who should head the new European Central Bank, and the markets' calm response was privately welcomed by ministers as Tony Blair defended last weekend's summit deal to MPs.

The Prime Minister said that the much-criticised deal would lead to 12 years of stability, and predicted that the euro would be a strong currency.

But the attacks on the "horse-trading" continued unabated and the head of the Bundesbank, Europe's most powerful financial institution, made his frustration clear.

Traders believe that the Bundesbank will respond by increasing German interest rates shortly to try to guarantee that the euro is a "hard" currency from its launch.

Israel given deadline

ISRAEL was yesterday given less than a week to agree on troop withdrawals from the West Bank, at the end of two days of Middle East talks in London which failed to achieve a breakthrough.

ian leaders in Washington on May 11 to begin negotiations for a final peace settlement.

Ultimatum, page 15  
Leading article, page 19



Ulrica Messing, the Swedish Minister for Women, in Belfast with her son Oscar

Storming of a male bastion

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

THE first summit of European Ministers for Women was launched yesterday in Northern Ireland — a venue specifically chosen because of its reputation for male chauvinism.

The 14 ministers taking part in the conference find themselves in a province with no women MPs or MEPs, no female High Court judges and no female permanent secretar-

ies in its civil service. Only 89 of the 581 councillors are women, and all but three of the RUC's 147 superintendents are men.

Ms Mowlem, the first woman Northern Ireland Secretary, is said to have made a point of sending bodyguards to buy tampons, lipstick and tights in a "mission to civilise the Ulster male".

The Government decided to hold the conference in Belfast after lobbying by the Northern

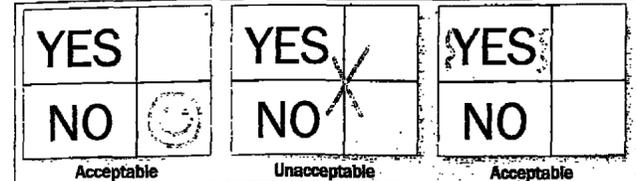
Ireland Equal Opportunities Commission, whose chairman, Joan Smyth, said: "Women do the low-paid jobs, the part-time jobs, and are virtually invisible in decision-making circles. It's a very traditional society. There's a lot of male chauvinism."

The ministers yesterday visited two women's training and childcare centres and will today issue a communiqué calling for more family-friendly employment policies.

London bends rules in game of noughts and crosses

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN

THE Government is so concerned about voter apathy towards tomorrow's London referendum that it has instructed returning officers to count as valid as many ballot papers as possible, including ones marked with smiley faces and games of noughts and crosses.



Officially at the Department of the Environment, Transport and Regions, have issued an 84-page guidance document instructing those counting the ballot papers to exercise the maximum tolerance of voters who appear confused by the request that they put a simple cross in a box marked Yes or No.

long as there is a cross in the Yes or No box.

Real confusion will arise, however, if voters start writing Yes or No on the ballot paper instead of putting crosses. A paper marked No in the Yes box and Yes in the No box will count as a No.

The more pressing question is whether anyone will turn out to vote at all. Recent polls have indicated that Londoners want a mayor but only one in ten knows when the referendum will be held.

Simon Jenkins, page 18

Maiden voyage of P&O luxury liner cancelled

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of passengers hoping to join next week's maiden voyage of the world's largest cruise ship were told yesterday that it had been cancelled.

Last-minute hitches have forced P&O to abandon plans to take 2,600 passengers on the inaugural voyage of the Grand Princess from Southampton.

A frantic ring-round of travel agencies in Britain and North America was under way yesterday to inform passengers of the decision.

Many people who had paid up to £5,000 to join the maiden voyage are now unlikely to board the Grand Princess for a year because she is fully booked for almost the whole summer.

P&O managers returned at the weekend from Italy, where the liner was built, and decided that the 950-ft ship was not up to standard.

Continued on page 2, col 4

before the May 14 voyage from Southampton to Istanbul. The ship's first sailing will now be from Istanbul at the end of May.

The 109,000-tonne Grand Princess has been hailed by P&O as setting new standards of comfort, spaciousness and facilities, which include nine restaurants and five swimming pools.

Although the ship has passed sea trials, there have been delays in putting the finishing touches to several public areas. Gwyn Hughes, managing director of P&O Cruises, said: "It had become apparent that the ship was not going to be up to the standards that passengers would expect and in the end we felt it was better not to go ahead than have people disappointed. We are giving full refunds and offering a 25 per cent discount on a future cruise for those passengers affected."

The vessel was built at the Fincantieri shipyard near Trieste and should have arrived

BVLGARI advertisement featuring a watch and the text 'The XL line From £1,000'. It also includes contact information for Bvlgari stores in London.

Table listing TV & Radio, Weather, Crosswords, Letters, Obituaries, Simon Jenkins, Arts, Chess & Bridge, Court & Social, Business, Homes, and Law Report with their respective page numbers.

Table listing international rates for The Times newspaper in various countries including Austria, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Madeira, Morocco, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, and Tunisia.

# It's not what y'know but how often y'know that counts

Those interested in whether the Prime Minister was on firm ground yesterday as he reported to MPs on the government of the European Central Bank but reluctant to immerse themselves in the theology of the Maastricht treaty, could do worse than apply five simple tests to his statement.

First: how did Tony Blair score on the "y'know" count? The more y'knows, the more Mr Blair is floundering.

Second: how often did the phrase "the fact of the matter is" recur? Blair tends to assert

that the fact of the matter is, when there is a strong possibility that the fact of the matter is?

Third: did he take frequent refuge in the phrase "I mean"? He says "I mean" whenever he is not at all sure he does.

Fourth: was the word "frankly" much in evidence? When it is, Mr Blair is at his least frank.

Fifth: how was his Dutch? In moments of intense anxiety, the pronunciation of foreign words by politicians is always the first to slip.

To deal with the fifth test

first, Mr Blair's Dutch was in dreadful shape. He began by pronouncing the bank's new Governor, Wim Duisenberg, as Mr Dweez-enberg. Moments later the unfortunate Dutchman had become Mr Doyz-enberg. Five paragraphs further on the new Governor was Dweez-enberg again.

Then, in his answers to the questions which followed, he seemed to settle in to Doyz-enberg — until Mr Blair became rattled by the Tories' Douglas Hogg, who introduced a character he called Dooz-enberg. Blair wobbled



back to Dweez-enberg, before reverting, finally, to Doyz-enberg.

Your sketchwriter is reliably informed that the correct pronunciation is none of these, but a sound somewhere on the cusp between Doyz-enberg and Dweez-enberg.

The Prime Minister's distress was betrayed further when, hesitating over a text

through the ceiling and off the pro forma charts with which sketchwriters furnish themselves to keep tally on these occasions.

Hardly an answer occurred without at least one y'know: sometimes two or more y'knows cropped up in the same breath.

The same was true of my The-fact-of-the-matter-is count. Nobody believed the truncated appointment of Mr Duisenberg was a happy outcome to the summit, but Blair would have it otherwise. "Despite what you may have

heard" about sums up the phrase "the fact of the matter is": a form of bleating insistence in the face of universal disbelief.

From Mr Blair yesterday, the bleat was getting pretty plaintive. A withering attack from William Hague triggered a burst of y'knows and "fact of the matter is" bleats.

And "frankly" kept creeping in. I counted three within a short space but there may have been more. There were undoubtedly more I-means. The I-mean counter blew a

fuse well before the end. And the more the Prime Minister told us that he meant, the more confused we became about what he meant.

At one point, dithering between thanking Paddy Ashdown for his support and attacking him for the qualifications which accompanied it, Mr Blair turned to the Liberal Democrat leader and stammered: "Y'know, the fact of the matter is it's going to happen."

I mean, frankly, that just about sums it up. Y'know.

## 'Yes' men Blair and Major take to Ulster streets

BY MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Prime Minister and his predecessor fly to Belfast today for a unique joint appearance designed to rally support for the Good Friday peace agreement.

Tony Blair and John Major played key roles in securing the agreement but must now allay the deep-seated fears of Unionists who could yet wreck the accord if a majority of them vote "no" in the May 22 referendum. Mr Major is expected to emphasise the benefits of successfully implementing the agreement, while giving a warning that rejection would condemn the Province to yet more years of misery and violence.

President Clinton has all but decided against a visit before the vote after Unionists said it might be seen as political interference. He is likely to appeal for a "yes" vote during the G8 economic summit in Birmingham next week.

Yesterday Unionist MPs from three parties formally launched a "no" campaign against a deal that would, they claimed, lead to a united Ireland, destroy the Royal Ulster Constabulary, free all terrorist prisoners and give Sinn Féin a place in Northern Ireland's government without any IRA decommissioning.

Peter Robinson, deputy leader of Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party, and Bob McCartney, the UK Unionist Party leader, were joined by William Ross and William Thompson, dissident MPs from David Trimble's Ulster Unionist Party, for the launch of the United Unionists campaign whose slogan will be "It's right to say no".

The loyalist Progressive Unionist Party simultaneous-

ly launched its "yes" campaign with a warning that the agreement's opponents were dangerously inflaming passions. "If they are going to frighten people with a united Ireland then they will be responsible for creating more deaths," Billy Hutchinson, a PUP leader, said.

Reg Empey, the UUP's campaign director, insisted the agreement "places the Union securely in our hands for the first time" and accused the agreement's opponents of deliberately playing on people's fears. The non-political Yes Campaign unveiled a billboard poster, created free by Saatchi and Saatchi, and disclosed that it had raised £175,000 in donations.

Polls suggest the agreement

will win strong cross-the-board support in the referendum but it must command the support of a majority of Unionists if the new political structures are to work. The latest survey showed 31 per cent of Protestants supported the agreement, 24 per cent opposed and 45 per cent were undecided.

Leaders of the Orange Order, the largest Protestant organisation, have rejected it, though they are meeting Mr Blair at Downing Street tomorrow. A majority of Unionist MPs oppose it but some are at odds with their own constituency associations. More than 70 per cent of the UUP's ruling body, the 800-member Ulster Unionist Council, backed it, while most councils are in favour.

Six IRA prisoners, including the notorious Balcombe Street gang, were transferred to prison in Ireland yesterday. The six, who will continue serving their sentences in the high security Portlaoise prison, were transferred amid high security.

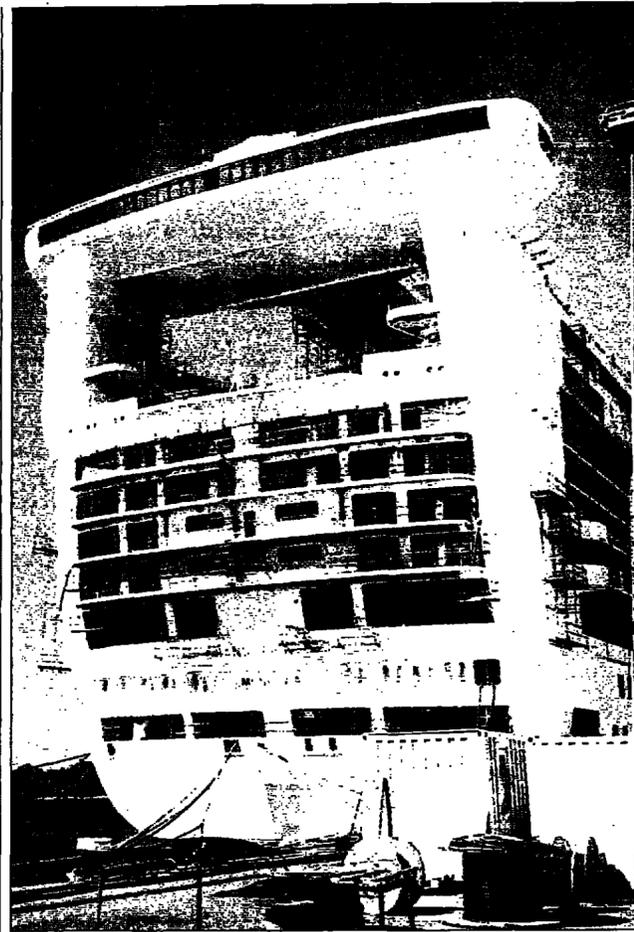
The Balcombe Street gang includes Hugh Doherty, brother of the Sinn Féin vice president Pat Doherty; Martin O'Connell; Eddie Butler and Harry Duggan. They were arrested in London in 1975 at the end of a five-day siege in which two people were taken hostage. They received multiple sentences for their part in a two-year bombing campaign.

Also transferred were William Quinn, who was jailed for 30 years in 1988 for murdering a policeman in London, and Paul Magee, sentenced to 30 years in 1993 for murdering a special constable in Yorkshire.

### Brown offers aid package

A MASSIVE cash aid programme for Northern Ireland will be unveiled by the Chancellor next week. Help worth hundreds of millions of pounds is expected to be put on the table in the run-up to the vote on the peace agreement.

The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, will visit Belfast to outline the package which is likely to include schemes for job creation and investment incentives to attract businesses. The move is part of the Government's plan to put in place firm economic and industrial foundations to ensure that peace in the region has a chance to survive. Money from US firms is expected to follow.



Grand Princess under construction at the Fincantieri shipyard near Trieste

Continued from page 1 in Southampton on May 12 but will now sail direct to Turkey for her maiden voyage.

The cancellation is the latest of a series of delays to hit cruise companies, which are struggling to cope with huge increases in passenger de-

### P&O delay

mand. Disney has twice had to cancel launches of its Disney World cruise ship, while Thomson has had to delay four cruise ship maiden voyages. Three years ago, P&O had problems with the maiden

voyage of its superliner, *Oriana*, which broke down with computer troubles.

Grand Princess will operate between Barcelona and Istanbul for the summer and sail in the Caribbean in the winter. The vessel has 1,100 crew and 1,300 cabins, of which 710 have balconies.

## Pubs could be open all hours to celebrate millennium

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

PUBS and bars could be open non-stop for 36 hours over the millennium to enable the nation to celebrate, the Government announced yesterday.

The proposed one-off concession was disclosed as ministers unveiled plans for a full review of the existing licensing laws.

George Howarth, a junior Home Office Minister, said it was time to "blow away the cobwebs" and bring the 34-year-old drinking laws in England and Wales up to date.

The timescale of the latest government review means that full reform of the laws will not take place until the early years of the next century. But Mr Howarth promised that he would look sympathetically at a temporary relaxation of the controls on drinking hours for the millennium holiday. Home Office sources said that some pubs and bars wished to stay open for 36 hours over the holiday and that the government hoped to consult the industry and public on specific proposals soon.

Mr Howarth said that licensing regulations should be modernised to reflect changing social trends and the boisterous tourist and leisure industries. "The time is right to blow away the cobwebs in British life by modernising the liquor licensing system."

He added: "Paramount in drawing up proposals will be balancing the rights of business and consumers with residents' rights to be free from disorder and violence, or other kinds of disturbance."

The review will consider whether bars and public

houses should be allowed to open daily from 8am to midnight, and whether on Friday and Saturday they should be allowed to open until midnight on Friday and Saturday. The Conservative Government proposed extending opening until midnight on Fridays and Saturdays, but ran into fierce opposition and dropped the plan.

Other proposals for reform include scrapping the ban on supermarkets selling alcohol after 3pm on Sundays, and allowing restaurants to sell alcohol without customers having to buy food.

The review will also look at whether the power to grant licenses should be transferred from magistrates to local authorities, and whether people wishing to open a new pub must prove there is a need for the new premises. Both proposals are highly controversial, with some fearing that giving powers to local authorities would politicise the granting of licenses. Brewers are unhappy with the idea that someone could open a bar without having to prove that there is a need.

A spokesman for the Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association said that it wanted a wholesale review of the law to enable all pubs to open from 8am to midnight, with even later licenses granted more readily. In Northern Ireland, pubs can open until midnight, and in Scotland it is much easier to obtain permission to stay open later.

A spokesman for the Association of Chief Police Officers said it had been calling for a shake-up for some years.

## French riot police guard Cup tickets

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

ARMED riot police with dogs are guarding a small airport in central France where millions of World Cup tickets have been marooned by striking postal workers.

Industrial action at the mail sorting centre in Charles de Gaulle airport outside Paris has forced the French post office to stock the 2.5 million tickets in a hangar at the little-used Marcel-Dassault airport outside Châteauroux.

Security at the airport was massively reinforced when word reached local inhabitants that the sought-after tickets were being held there, prompting hopeful inquiries from fans. "The post office has installed a private security system including alarms and internal surveillance cameras. With the agreement of the Interior Ministry — which just shows how important this is considered to be — extra police, including CRS riot police with dogs, have also been drafted in to patrol the airport," a spokesman for the local prefecture said. Officials

refused to say how many guards had been brought in to protect the hoard, but one newspaper said that the airport had been "turned into a veritable Fort Knox".

A spokesman for the French World Cup Organising Committee yesterday confirmed that the tickets were under guard at Châteauroux, contradicting earlier denials from Michel Platini, joint president of the committee. "This does not affect distribution. The tickets will be sent out exactly as planned on May 15," the spokesman said.

The tickets had been to be stocked and sorted at Charles de Gaulle, but they were diverted to Châteauroux in strictest secrecy a week ago, when strikers paralysed the Paris airport's postal centre.

The tournament is also facing a strike threat from French lorry-drivers' unions, who have announced plans to snarl traffic around every World Cup football stadium unless their wage demands are met.

## MPs' summer holidays at risk

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government has run into trouble over its packed legislative timetable and MPs may be forced to sit in the Commons till well into August to complete the business.

Other options being considered include all-night sittings or weekend sessions to ensure that all Bills get through by the summer holidays.

MPs have been told by government whips not to plan holidays before August 6. Those that have already booked holidays may be allowed to go ahead but whips have warned MPs that, if they book up now, they risk losing their deposit.

Scottish MPs have been the first to complain, because Scottish school holidays end on August 17. But other backbenchers and opposition MPs are now also up in arms at the idea of having to spend more time at the Commons.

Business managers argue that the main reason they have run out of time is because of extra legislation

caused by the Northern Ireland peace deal.

The Good Friday agreement has resulted in three extra Bills, on the referendum that takes place on May 22, which has already gone through, on the early release of prisoners, and on setting up the organisation of the Northern Ireland assembly.

Hopes of a deal with the Tories look slim as Andrew MacKay, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, has made clear that he will insist that both Bills outstanding are given the full parliamentary time.

The Tories agreed to a one-day "fast track" for the Bill for the referendum and elections for the assembly, but Mr MacKay argues that the others are both very complex Bills and should be properly scrutinised.

Gillian Shephard, Shadow Leader of the House, blames the business backlog on the Government's decision to pack too much into its legislative session from the start.

## Glitter charged with sex assaults

BY SIMON DE BRUELLES

THE pop singer Gary Glitter was charged last night with serious sexual assaults on young girls dating back more than 15 years.

Glitter, who was charged under his real name Paul Gadd, is accused of committing four sexual offences, including buggery, against a 15-year-old girl between 1980 and 1983.

Avon and Somerset police also charged the singer with indecently assaulting another girl, then aged eight or nine, in Sussex between 1975 and 1977.

The 54-year-old singer, who has homes in London and Somerset, has been bailed to appear before North Avon magistrates on May 18.

Glitter already faces 50 charges relating to indecent images of children. He was initially arrested in November after staff at a computer store in Bristol discovered allegedly pornographic pictures on a PC he took in for repair.

## Top Tory peers threaten chaos over Lords reform

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

SENIOR Conservative peers threatened yesterday to disrupt the Government's entire legislative programme next year if ministers insist on a piecemeal reform of the House of Lords.

They said the Lords would use its existing powers to the full to amend major government Bills in the next session of Parliament if Labour removed hereditary peers without saying what would take their place.

The Lords only rarely uses all its powers of delay and amendment and such a move by the Tories would plunge the Government's parliamentary programme into disarray and months of legislative attrition.

The Tories strongly oppose the Government's plan to introduce a Bill this autumn to scrap the sitting and voting rights of hereditary peers before considering wider Lords reforms.

They fear lack of agreement will delay the second stage reforms, leaving the Lords in

an unacceptable limbo as a chamber full of politically appointed life peers. Instead, they want the Lords comprehensively reformed in one "big bang".

Both Viscount Cranborne, the Tory leader in the Lords, and Lord Strathclyde, the Tory Chief Whip, said the Lords would no longer "pull its punches" and would instead use its existing powers more effectively.

They claimed that would not breach the Salisbury Convention, an unwritten agreement that peers do not wreck Bills contained in the manifesto of a newly elected Government.

However, any moves that appeared to delay a Bill unacceptably would run the risk of being described as a "wrecking amendment" and would be in breach of the convention.

Lord Cranborne said that if the Government wanted to reform the Lords, it should "go the extra mile and do it with a big bang because otherwise you will never get there. You

will have the unsatisfactory situation which we already have: a House which does not dare use the powers it already has."

He added: "If the Government does intend to introduce a stage one reform without stage two, which it is increasingly clear that it does, then we will have to look and see what are our tactics would be. It is clearly possible that we would amend pretty thoroughly not only this Bill but a number of other Bills, without breaking the Salisbury Convention."

He said: "The Government might find its legislative programme may be in even greater trouble next session than it is in this one. We have got nothing to lose. If you get a rat caught in a trap, you give it a way out if you don't want it get bitten."

The remarks signal the end of the private meetings between Lord Cranborne and Lord Richard, the Leader of the Lords, to see if a consensus approach to reform was possible.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY MAY 6 1998

Celebrate to sell Stewart Tenders

£94,600 r gone to t

The owner thought for...

مَكْزَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

# Celebrity thief 'tried to sell stolen Picasso'

## Stewart Tendler on trial of an elderly cat burglar who preyed on the stars

A CELEBRATED cat burglar who preyed on the film stars Sophia Loren and Elizabeth Taylor was caught by undercover police trying to sell a stolen Picasso. It was alleged yesterday.

Peter Scott, 69, claimed to have given up crime. Yet hours after the painting *Tête de Femme*, worth £650,000, was taken from the Lefevre Gallery in Mayfair, Mr Scott passed it on for sale, Snarebrook Crown Court was told.

He wanted £75,000 for the painting but the man he asked to sell it was arrested by police as he handed over the canvas. He then led detectives to Mr Scott. Yesterday Mr Scott, a tennis coach from Islington, North London, denied conspiracy to handle stolen goods in March last year. Ronald Spring, the man who was going to sell the painting, has already admitted the same charge.

Andrew Campbell, for the prosecution, told the jury: "He [Mr Scott] is a man who has made his living as a cat burglar and is actually quite famous. He has written a book [*Gentleman Thief - Recollections of a Cat Burglar*] and been on television. Victims include Sophia Loren and Elizabeth Taylor. According to him he has given up all that and given up crime."

Mr Campbell said that the painting was taken from the gallery by a man who walked in after hiring a taxi outside the Hilton hotel and asking the driver to wait. The Picasso was on the wall in the gallery.

Mr Campbell said: "The man asked how much it was. He was told it was about a million dollars. He then said, 'I have got a shotgun. I want that painting.' He then took from his bag what looked like



Scott is said to have asked £75,000 for *Tête de Femme*

the stock of a shotgun. He took the picture from the wall and left."

The robber came back to the taxi and ordered the driver to take him to Wimbledon. Mr Campbell said: "The same day, within hours of that robbery, the Picasso was in the possession of Mr Scott. He then handed it over to Spring, with whom he had discussed selling stolen paintings. Spring had the painting by about 3pm."

The court was told that, for some months, an undercover policeman called Patrick had been negotiating with Spring over the theft and sale of

He met Spring and had passed him the painting in a red suitcase, with an arrangement that he had seven days to sell the painting. Spring said Mr Scott was also planning to steal a painting worth £5 million. Patrick eventually agreed to buy the picture for £95,000, including £25,000 commission for Spring. Patrick was accompanied by another officer calling himself Tarquin, who posed as a valuer. The painting, wrapped in a blanket, was handed over in Spring's office and he was arrested.

Mr Campbell said he agreed to co-operate and rang Mr Scott to ask for a meeting using code words.

When the two men met, Spring was wearing a secret tape recorder and Mr Campbell said the two could be heard talking about the price of the Picasso. An undercover policeman posing as a driver passed over a carrier bag with £75,000 to Mr Scott who smiled, took the bag and walked away. He was then arrested.

Mr Campbell said that, in a statement, Mr Scott had claimed that he had been due to give a tennis lesson to a man on the day of the robbery but his pupil never arrived. He saw him later and the man gave him a suitcase to give to Spring. Mr Scott said he never opened the suitcase and had no idea what was in it.

Mr Scott said he had been "an innocent go between." When a detective asked him to describe the man who gave him the suitcase, he told police that if he did "retribution would be instant... I am an elderly man and in no position to defend myself."

Yesterday Spring, a former legal executive, said that Mr Scott had driven him to the Fulham, West London, on the



Scott, author of *Gentleman Thief*, preyed on Sophia Loren and Elizabeth Taylor

day of the robbery and had put on the car radio. It was 3.10pm and the radio news announcer referred to a daring art theft.

He said: "At that point he [Scott] began to talk over the radio. He said he [the thief]

had just walked in and taken it off the wall. I laughed and said he had a nerve... we both laughed." Scott then collected the red plastic suitcase containing the Picasso masterpiece and handed it to him in

the car. Spring said: "I was in a complete panic. I didn't even look inside." He said that Scott had demanded payment of £70,000 to £75,000 within seven days.

The case continues.

# Mother tells of helping the FBI to catch her son

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

THE mother of a British man on the run for murder in Florida helped the FBI to track him down despite knowing that he faced the electric chair if caught.

Rhiannon Evans, 66, kept her son talking long enough for the telephone call to be traced and the police to trap him. Goronwy Olden, a 44-year-old electrician who moved to Florida four years ago, had been on the run for 19 days, living rough and eating out of dustbins, after stabbing his estranged wife in a fit of jealousy.

The FBI asked for Mrs Evans's help after Janet Ferguson, 37, was found stabbed 17 times in the driveway of a friend's home in Fort Lauderdale in June 1995. On Monday, Olden was spared the death penalty and sentenced to life imprisonment after pleading guilty to second degree murder.

After the hearing his mother disclosed her role in his capture. She said: "It was the hardest thing I have ever done but I did what I thought I had to do. I didn't want him or anyone else to get hurt." Olden killed his wife with a penknife when she told him their marriage was over after 11 months.

When her son called her at home in Machen, near Caerphilly, south Wales, the FBI were able to trace the call to a pay phone in Jacksonville, Florida.

Mrs Evans, who has three other children, said: "I kept telling him to give himself up, kept talking to him, trying to keep him on the line. The last thing I heard him say was, 'Mum I've got to go, the police are here.'"

Mrs Evans feared her son - who faced a charge of first degree murder - would die in the electric chair without her ever seeing him again. But he escaped the threat of Death Row after his wife's family agreed to accept a lesser plea.

His mother said: "I'm glad the death penalty has been avoided and he has to come to terms with what he has done."

"I am only a pensioner and I don't have much money, but if I can save up enough I hope to go and visit him."



Goronwy Olden: he killed estranged wife

# £94,600 rug had gone to the dog

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

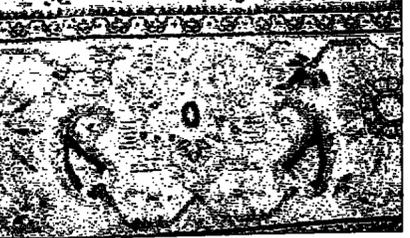
A PREGNANT woman made a hurried exit from an auction room yesterday, fearing that she would be sent into labour by the excitement of seeing a tatty rug that she had discarded and given to her dog sell for £94,600.

The anonymous seller, who is expecting her baby within a month, had dismissed the rug as worthless.

It was noticed during a routine house valuation by a local auction house, Woolley & Wallis of Salisbury, and later identified by its carpets specialist, June Barrett, as a

rare 19th-century Ziegler carpet which had been commissioned for New Wardour Castle, Tisbury, Wiltshire. It had remained there until the late 1940s when the building was taken over by the Army. The building was later converted into a private school and then turned into flats.

Ms Barrett was horrified to learn that the owner had planned to cut up the 22ft by 15ft carpet. She said: "It is quite worn at either end where people have walked on it - and one of the corners has been eaten by the dog."



The owner thought her tatty carpet was worthless

# Boy, 13, drops dead on way to play tennis

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A TEENAGE boy with no history of illness dropped dead on a tennis court just hours after his father had suffered a stroke. Lewis Marsh, 13, went to warm up for a tennis match and was found a few minutes later by his mother, lying face down and motionless on the court.

Barry Marsh, 65, who shared his son's passion for tennis, suffered a serious stroke last year and was recovering from another attack that had struck on Friday. His mother, Jill, who had found her husband on the floor after the latest stroke, had stepped in to take Lewis to Lattika Tennis Club in Parley Wood, Berkshire, for his Saturday morning game.

"I drove Lewis to the club, he got out of the car and said, 'Bye Mum'. He was his lovely jokey self. I went into the tennis club office and he went to knock up. When I came out he was lying face down on the ground. I thought he had tripped up," she said. "When I got over to him I think he had already gone." A tennis coach and a first-aider tried to revive

the boy and ambulance workers and doctors at the hospital then tried to save his life.

Mrs Marsh said: "He didn't suffer, he wasn't in pain. He was where he loved to be. I hope they do find a problem, because then I can say thank-you for 13 wonderful years. He had given so much love. I'm just grateful it was so quick. Some children have a dreadful death - but we keep asking 'why?' For his 14th birthday on May 22 the family were going to buy him an old car so



Lewis Marsh: dreamed of winning Wimbledon

he could learn about engines. A keen scout, he also loved to dance. But he saw his future in tennis and dreamed of winning Wimbledon. He had been thrilled after winning tickets in the All England Club ballot for the semi-final day at the Championships this year.

"He had everything going for him, so much he was going to do. I feel so cheated. He was blossoming into such a decent young man," his mother said.

His eldest sister, 18-year-old Chevaun, is now in Guildford training to be an actress, and his 17-year-old sister, Sorelle, is at the Ranelagh Church of England School in Sandhurst, where Lewis was also a pupil.

Mrs Marsh said: "When we phoned Sorelle to tell her to come to the hospital she said: 'What's he broken now? It can't be his arms again, it must be his legs.' I just said: 'No, he's broken our hearts.'"

The coroner's office told Mrs Marsh yesterday that a post-mortem examination had not revealed the reason why Lewis had died. More tests are being carried out. His funeral will be on Friday.

# Court told of bid to milk sport cash

BY RICHARD DUCE

ONE of the most powerful figures in British sport recruited his son to help to milk thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money as they embarked on a scheme of "wholesale dishonesty", a court was told yesterday.

Peter Lawson, 58, the general secretary of the Central Council for Physical Recreation, allegedly decided his salary was not enough and turned to crime to boost his income.

Southwark Crown Court heard that, with the connivance of his son, Christopher, 28, whom he employed as a development officer, and Nigel Gilroy, an accountant, Mr Lawson started to siphon off money into a personal business account.

As a result of the alleged fraud during the early 1990s, the England football star Sir Stanley Matthews failed to benefit as much as expected from a charity dinner which had been organised by the CCPR to mark his 80th birthday, the court heard.

The Lawsons are also alleged to have provided false invoices for decoration and

building work at the CCPR's Westminster offices which had not been carried out.

Clive Temple, QC for the prosecution, said all three defendants embarked on a "concerted and prolonged campaign to use the CCPR and its resources to further their own long-term advantage".

Mr Temple said the CCPR was an umbrella organisation which provided sports bodies with information, advice and assistance.

Through his hard work, Mr Lawson had been responsible for developing the CCPR's "influence and standing". However, Mr Temple added: "He was trusted by the executive officers and given a free hand. Because of that trust, there was little or no effective check. It is no exaggeration to say that he ruled the CCPR."

Mr Lawson and his son, both from Sidcup, Kent, and Mr Gilroy, 45, of Surbiton, Surrey, variously deny four charges of conspiracy to defraud, eight of furnishing false information and two of theft. The hearing continues.

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# Informer tells of plot to kill Charles and Diana

AN IRA informer, who has admitted lying about three murders, told a court yesterday that he had been sent on a terrorist mission to kill the Prince and Princess of Wales and to bomb beaches.

Sean O'Callaghan said that the IRA had given him a false passport and driver's licence to enable him to travel to Britain.

"I was sent to England in 1983 specially to plant 16 small bombs on English beaches and also to attempt to murder Prince Charles and Lady Diana at the Dominion Theatre [in London]," said Mr O'Callaghan, who was giving evidence on the second day of a libel case against *The Sunday Times*.

Mr O'Callaghan, who has served eight years for the IRA murders of a UDR member and a Roman Catholic RUC officer, said that the attack and murder were aborted only after he contacted Irish police to tell them about the plans.

The former IRA member was giving evidence on behalf of *The Sunday Times*, which is being sued for libel by Thomas

## IRA man says he was sent on royal mission, but admits making up stories, reports Audrey Magee

"Slab" Murphy, a Co Louth farmer, Mr Murphy says that the newspaper wrongly referred to him in 1985 as a commander of IRA operations in Northern Ireland.

Mr O'Callaghan said that he had met Mr Murphy at three IRA meetings in the 1980s. He said that he had also seen Mr Murphy with Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness at a meeting of the IRA Army Council at the terrorists' headquarters in Dublin.

He gave the court details about IRA activities, including the training given on how to behave when being interrogated. "People are told not to engage in eye contact, to stare at a spot on the far wall or to lie on the floor face down."

Mr O'Callaghan, 43, is the key witness for *The Sunday Times* in the libel case at Dublin High Court. He re-

sumed giving evidence yesterday after being arrested on Wednesday within minutes of completing his first day of evidence.

He told Mrs Justice McGuinness yesterday that he had been held for 48 hours and questioned about the 1985 murder of an IRA informer. He had previously confessed in detail how he had murdered John Corcoran. But yesterday, in answer to a question from counsel for *The Sunday Times*, he said that he had lied about the murder.

"I did not kill Sean [John] Corcoran," Mr O'Callaghan said. "I tried for 18 months to save his life... I specifically said that [I killed him] in order to reopen an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding his murder."

Under cross-examination, Mr O'Callaghan admitted

that he had repeatedly lied to police and journalists, including *The Sunday Times*, about Corcoran's murder. He also admitted that he had invented murdering two Americans in 1988. He said that he had made up the story to protect himself from harsh treatment in prison.

Edmond Leahy, counsel for Mr Murphy, said that Mr O'Callaghan had repeatedly lied and possessed an ability to "change from truth to falsehood at will". He accused Mr O'Callaghan of seeking publicity for his autobiography, *The Informer*, to be published later this month. Mr O'Callaghan said that his life on the run from the IRA had forced him to lie.

Mr O'Callaghan told the court of his relationship with *The Sunday Times*, which is paying the £260 a month rent for his flat in England. Mr O'Callaghan said that he would repay the money. He said that journalists had visited him in prison, including the Editor at the time, Andrew Neil.

The case continues today.



Police escorting Sean O'Callaghan from Dublin High Court yesterday after he had given evidence

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### Detective Lawrence was a thief

By LIN JENKINS

A POLICE officer assigned to liaise with the bereaved parents of Stephen Lawrence yesterday denied hinting to them that their son was a cat burglar.

Detective Constable Linda Holden admitted that she had gone to see them three days after the murder to show them a woolen hat and gloves, despite a request that they be left alone on Sunday.

Stephen Kamlish, for the family, accused her of being patronising, insensitive and not treating Neville and Doreen Lawrence as her "equals with equal intelligence".

Miss Holden denied suggesting to them that their son was a criminal. "I would not have gone along and perceived him as a member of a gang and certainly not a cat burglar," she said.

Asked if she expressed surprise at the need for gloves and a hat in April, thereby upsetting Mr Lawrence, she replied: "No, not at all."

The judicial inquiry into the death was told that Miss Holden and a fellow liaison officer, John Bevan, failed to establish a close relationship with the Lawrences.

The hearing continues.

### Irvine calls on black students to join bench

By FRANCES GIBB  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor urged black student lawyers yesterday to see themselves as future judges.

Lord Irvine of Lairg said that, in the top ranks of the judiciary, there were no black judges and that, among circuit judges, only 1 per cent were not white. That was not surprising, he told the African, Caribbean and Asian Lawyers' Group, at the College of Law, Guildford, only 1 per cent of barristers of 15 years' call, and few solicitors with this experience, were not white.

But Lord Irvine said that the percentage of ethnic minority lawyers in both branches of the profession was rising. "This growth is matched by a rise in the number of ethnic minority lawyers in the more junior ranks of the judiciary — which should feed through into the senior ranks."

He hoped more ethnic minority lawyers would put themselves forward for judicial appointment, not because of positive discrimination but because the system had given each applicant a fair chance. "My aim is to plant in your minds the seed of an idea which I hope will take root and blossom."

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# Thalidomide may return in wake of cancer tests

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THALIDOMIDE, the world's most notorious drug, could make a comeback after reports that an American biotech company had destroyed cancer in mice.

The drug that crippled a generation of babies in the early 1960s is one of the top prospects for Entremed, of Rockville, Maryland, whose stock rocketed on Monday after it reported that a drug with a similar mode of action had stopped cancer in mice. Thalidomide damaged babies in the womb by preventing the development of blood vessels. The same way that the new drugs, endostatin and angiostatin, kill cancer.

Experts yesterday attempted to prick the bubble of

exaggerated expectation by pointing out that many treatments which work in animals prove ineffective in humans.

Professor Karol Sikora, of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, warned: "We have been this close to success before and it just hasn't panned out. It will be two years before we know if it works, so for people who have cancer now I'm afraid it won't help them at all."

Entremed plans to capitalise on research done by Judah Folkman at the Children's Hospital in Boston, whose team pioneered the concept of attacking cancer by blocking its ability to grow new blood vessels. His inspiration was thalidomide. He

reasoned that the very side-effect which left children with- out limbs could be put to good use in treating cancer and macular degeneration, the commonest cause of blindness in the elderly.

Thalidomide is in clinical trials against four different cancers and two types of macular degeneration. Interim results have demonstrated some effects in stopping the progression of brain tumours.

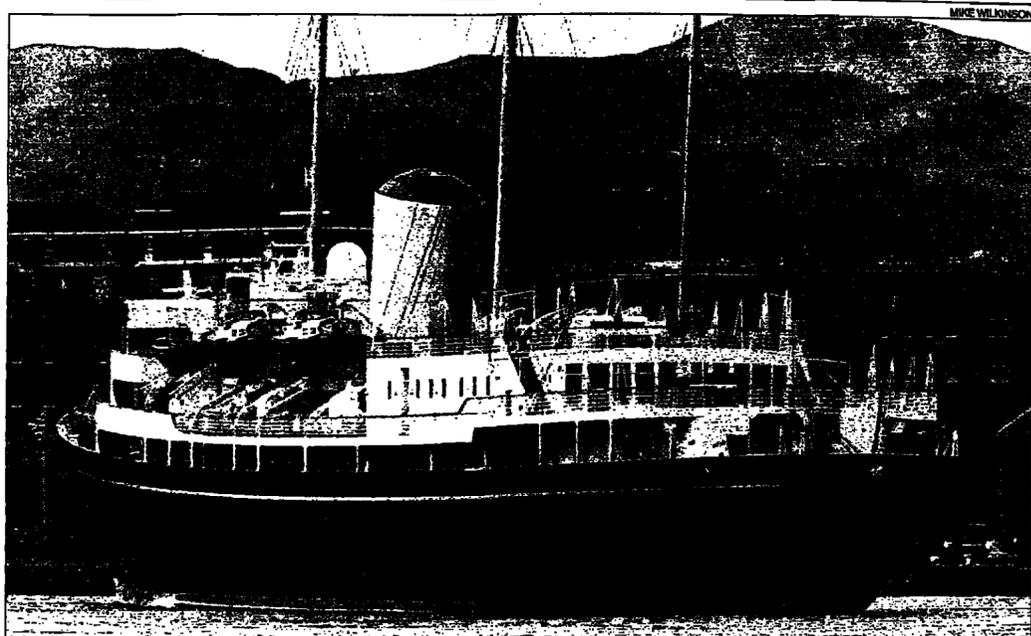
While the thalidomide results have left the stock markets cold, more preliminary results for endostatin and angiostatin caused mayhem. Entremed shares soared from \$12 to \$85 at one point on Monday, before ending the day at \$51.81.

The reason appears to have been that they appeared prominently in *The New York Times*, with the endorsement of the Nobel Prize winner James Watson, who is not a cancer specialist. But those with longer memories of "cancer breakthroughs" are more wary. Mark Ratain, of the University of Chicago, said: "I am really sceptical that Folkman will be curing patients with these drugs."

Jim Pluda, of the US National Cancer Institute, said the data was very impressive and compelling, but it was "still mouse data". He added: "We need clinical data in humans before we can anoint them as miracle drugs. The field of oncology is littered with the bodies of agents that were the next cure for cancer."

Nelson Campbell, Entremed's chief financial officer, agreed and declined to use the word cure. "We're in preclinical studies and the proteins are not in humans yet."

Like thalidomide, the drugs can never be used in pregnant women, and children will also be excluded. Side-effects such as damage to the ability to heal wounds will also have to be taken into account.



Britannia arriving at Leith yesterday. She will undergo a £750,000 refurbishment in dry dock before opening to the public in August

## Britannia slips into final resting place

By GILLIAN HARRIS, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE former Royal Yacht Britannia slid gently into her final resting place at Leith Docks in Edinburgh yesterday. Four hundred people lined the quay as a German tug eased her into a berth alongside the £75 million ocean terminal where she will be a tourist attraction. Visitors will be charged £6 to tour the yacht, which is expected to attract up to 200,000 people a year.

The Clyde-side built yacht, which was decommissioned in front of the Queen last December, will undergo a major refurbishment before being opened to the public during the Edinburgh Festival in August.

Britannia was towed 560 miles by the tug, *Fair Play 21*, from Portsmouth. During the five-day journey, she ran into Force 8 gales and waves of up to five metres in height

off East Anglia. When she limped into Edinburgh, there was little evidence of the gleaming hand rails and polished decks that greeted the Royal Family each time they stepped on board. The yacht, which covered 1,086,041 miles during a 43-year career, appeared to be showing her age.

Nevertheless, Britannia received a rousing musical welcome. The Lothian and Borders Police pipe band played *Scotland the Brave*. They were followed by the Dunedin Consort Singers with their a cappella rendition of *Rule Britannia*.

Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, wished the yacht a happy retirement and said he believed she would become a "great centrepiece" for Leith, which will soon boast a luxurious terminus for cruise liners designed by

### CHEAP PALACE, BUT A PRICED BOAT

The £6 admission price puts Britannia at the lower end of the royal attractions market. Entrance to Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle costs £9.50 for an adult. Earl Spencer was criticised recently for charging £9.50 for entrance to Althorp House.

An adult ticket for HMS Belfast, moored near London Bridge, is £4.70, while the *Catty Sark* in Greenwich charges £3.50. Visiting HMS Victory in Portsmouth costs £5.75, while a ticket for the entire Flagship Portsmouth complex — entitling admission to Victory, HMS Warrior, the Royal Naval Museum and the *Mary Rose* — costs £12.95 and is valid for two years. In Bristol, it is £4.50 to visit SS Great Britain.

Sir Terence Couran. It was a proud moment for Terry Smith, property director of Forth Ports Authority, which bought the yacht for £250,000 from the Ministry of Defence. The leader of the campaign to bring Britannia to Leith, he saw off rival bids from Manchester and Glasgow. "I would not have missed this day for the

world," he said. Mr Smith is one of the few people to have been on board the 5,682-tonne yacht since she changed hands. "It looks like a house on the day you moved out," he said. "If you imagine taking all the furniture out, that is very much what she looks like."

But the £750,000 refit that will take place in a dry dock

is expected to return the yacht to her former glory. Forth Ports Authority has spoken to the curators of the Royal Collection about the possibility of borrowing artefacts that were housed on Britannia to allow the public to see what life on board was like.

Britannia will also be used as a venue for conferences and private functions. "Lots of people have approached us wanting to be the first function on board," said Mr Smith. "But we haven't finalised anything yet."

Meanwhile, the children who were allowed a morning off school to see Britannia arrive hung around to stare. Duncan Sullivan, 8, from Edinburgh, said: "I want to go on it and see where the Queen lived." His mother, Frances, said: "It will be interesting to see what it really looks like inside. A bit like the *Titanic*, I should imagine."

## Simon 'the warrior' fights breast tumour

By TUNKU VARADARAJAN

THE singer Carly Simon is receiving treatment for breast cancer. The 52-year-old New Yorker has had a malignant tumor removed and is undergoing chemotherapy.

Simon, whose cancer was diagnosed in October, told *New York's Daily News* yesterday: "I feel stronger and more vital than ever." The singer admitted, however, being perturbed by her condition: "It takes some time to get used to the fear of having it. But I've always thought of myself as being a warrior."

"I was in the hospital one night... My doctor gave me the option of whether to have chemotherapy. I decided to play it safe. The treatments are every three weeks. I have only two more to go."

"I thought I might lose my hair. I bought a lot of wigs. But I haven't had to wear any of them." She expressed her



Simon: bought wigs but has not lost her hair

sorrow over the death of Linda McCartney, a friend, whose cancer began in her breast. "This disease is practically epidemic. We need a lot more money for research," Simon said.

"There is the feeling that, if this were a man's disease, it would have been licked already."

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# Naked untruths earn a rebuke for advertisers

Watchdog criticises the increasingly gratuitous use of nude women to sell products, writes Carol Midgley

THE Advertising Standards Authority has criticised an apparent boom in the use of nude women to sell products, a trend that it believes was set by the success of the model Melinda Messenger.



Melinda Messenger: her success set the trend

The watchdog yesterday upheld complaints about four campaigns using provocative images of women to promote goods ranging from car stereos to windows and doors. Advertisers appear to have been encouraged by the example of Miss Messenger, whose appearance in her underwear on a poster for a double-glazing firm in Swindon led to a subsequently lucrative career as a topless model.

Yesterday the authority said that other companies were copying the style, citing, among others, an advertisement published in the men's lifestyle magazine *Loaded*. A spokesman for the authority, Christopher Reed, said: "We like to think advertising has moved on from the 1960s and 1970s. But some seem to have learnt nothing in that time."

"We do not accept gratuitous nudity in ads when it has absolutely nothing to do with the product it is advertising. The media makes a slight

difference. We understand the laddish nature of *Loaded* and make allowances for its market, though it can go too far. "But women — and a number of men — find such images degrading and offensive. It started last year when we upheld complaints about Melinda Messenger. Since then her career has rocketed but our research shows that two in three women feel strongly about how women are portrayed in advertising."

One advertisement, for Denon Hi-Fis in Buckinghamshire, featured two pictures of a naked woman: in one she

was on her hands and knees with the speaker between her legs, her mouth open in an expression of terror. It appeared in an advertising feature in *Loaded*. The authority said that the image bore no relevance to the product.

One for Stirling Ice, a car audio company in Essex, portrayed a woman in an outfit that covered only her nipples and genital area. The authority said the poster could have been seen by children and that women alone after dark might have felt threatened.

Wheel Sounds car audio used an image of a woman in a jacket, G-string, stockings and high-heels in an advertisement in a local newspaper. Complainants said it was exploitative. Tradelink Windows and Doors in Cambridgeshire had used a picture of a woman in her underwear, which the authority said was likely to cause offence.

Mr Reed added: "When Wonderbra uses a woman in her underwear only for an ad we can understand the relevance — though we may still get complaints. But using a naked or near naked woman for hi-fi is gratuitous."

The watchdog also warned

advertisers against using pictures of extremely thin models. They warned advertising agencies that "supermodel" campaigns might contribute to incidences of anorexia and bulimia nervosa.

The authority said it had received 83 complaints about a poster campaign for Accurist watches which showed a thin woman wearing a silver watch round the top of her arm with a slogan that read: "Put some weight on." Many of the complainants had suffered from eating disorders or knew people who had done. They

found the Accurist advert irresponsible and offensive.

The company claimed that the model featured was "naturally thin" and that they had not intended to poke fun at people with eating disorders. Nor did they mean to glamorise being underweight.

But the authority upheld the complaints. It said that it had no wish to tell advertisers what size models they should employ. "However, advertisers need to be sensitive to the broader messages they are sending out when they use social issues to sell."



The authority was concerned at the image of a very thin woman to sell watches, but said the Wonderbra advertisements were legitimate



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## 'Life-giving' claim left a bad taste

THE maker of an olive oil spread have been criticised for implying that it could add years to consumers' lives.

An advertisement for Olivio showed an elderly South European woman preparing fruit and vegetables and said "a Mediterranean diet alone won't give you the health and figure of a supermodel. But it may add a few years to your life."

Van den Bergh Foods said it believed that eating Olivio, which has 15 grams of saturated fat per 100g to butter's 54g, made a significant contribution towards a healthier diet. The manufacturer said the advertisement focused on the benefits of a Mediterranean diet and the role that Olivio could play in it.

After taking expert advice, the Advertising Standards Authority said that switching from butter to Olivio would only slightly cut the risk of heart disease and it had not been shown to extend life.

## Chocolate lovers face a shortage

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE world is threatened with a shortage of chocolate as cocoa farms fall victim to diseases and insect attacks.

Supplies are guaranteed in the near future, but the world's leading chocolate companies, including Cadbury, Mars, Nestlé and Hershey, have conferred with conservation groups on investigating sustainable farming methods.

Mars spokesmen confirmed yesterday that the most likely outcome would be a move towards more organic methods of farming cocoa beans. At present only cotton production uses more agrochemicals than the cocoa industry.

The result, conservationists argue, is that intensively farmed plantations of cacao trees are being attacked by "superbugs" with inbred immunity to overused fungicides and pesticides. The most

urgent threats to cocoa production are an outbreak of black pod disease in the Ivory Coast, which produces the world's biggest crop, and a fungus known as witches' broom, which threatens production in Brazil.

Experts say that, for cocoa crops to be sustainable, production will have to concentrate on smaller farms where cacao trees can flourish next to larger trees, in whose shade the crop thrives. Cacao trees exposed to the sun use more fertiliser, fungicide and pesticide and are more prone to pests and disease.

Britons eat on average 6.83 lb of chocolate each a year, but most producers say a shortage is not likely until at least five years' time. Tony Lass, of Cadbury Schweppes, said yesterday: "If we do not find answers by then, the situation for chocolate lovers will be very serious indeed."

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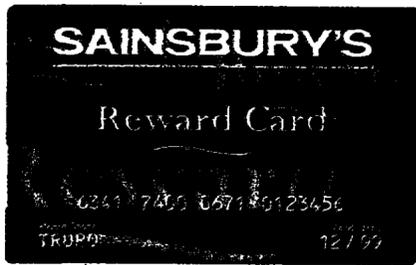
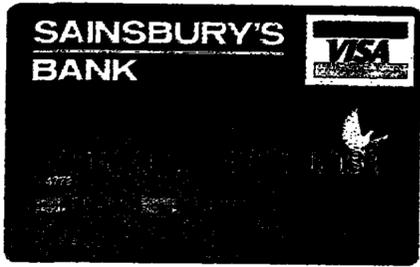
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# Visits from Ofsted inspectors 'do not help GCSE results'

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

VISITS from school inspectors fail to improve children's performance in GCSE examinations, researchers said yesterday.

Uninspected secondary schools consistently achieved higher results than assessed schools during the first four years of the £150 million-a-year inspection system, the findings showed.

The research brought calls for a full investigation into the inspection agency's value for money. The National Audit Office, the Government's financial watchdog, said yesterday it would consider an investigation of Ofsted later this year.

Ofsted, which is headed by Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, dismissed the figures as "pointless, misleading and stupid". It said it had nothing to fear from the audit office.

Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat education spokesman who carried out the analysis with the education pressure group Article 26, said an investigation was overdue. "Ofsted's mission state-

ment is 'improvement through inspection'. It is clear... that, for secondary schools at least, Ofsted is failing in its mission," he said.

"Once again, evidence has been provided that calls into question Ofsted's approach. There is an urgent need for an independent study into the value for money provided by Chris Woodhead and his team."

Mr Woodhead has faced constant calls to resign from classroom unions for his comment two years ago that up to 15,000 teachers were incompetent. Tim Brighouse, the director of education in Birmingham and a leading government adviser, has called Ofsted a "reign of terror".

In the analysis, the first 775 schools inspected in 1993-94 were found to have improved their GCSE grades by an average of 2.6 points per pupil by 1996. The 861 uninspected schools that took GCSEs that summer improved scores by 2.8 per pupil over the same period.

In a further comparison, the 786 schools inspected in 1994-95 improved the average GCSE score by 0.9 points in 1996, against a 1.3 point improvement at the uninspected schools.

Charles Bell, of Article 26, said: "Our analysis shows that it is possible to identify the effects of Ofsted. And when we do, Ofsted is found to be wanting."

Ofsted was set up in 1993 to inspect every school and will complete that task this summer. It now plans a return visit to schools once every six years, except where they are judged to be failing or at risk of failure, which will bring more frequent inspections.

Mr Woodhead said yesterday it was "not surprising" the research showed that schools inspected first were improving more slowly than others. "The first schools that we inspected were schools we knew had problems and were weak schools."

An Ofsted spokesman said the criticisms were "absurd" because of all the other factors involved in school improvement.



Captain Tancred is reunited with Kate Birkett after his sea rescue

# Sailors lassoed racehorse that went for swim

By A CORRESPONDENT

CAPTAIN Tancred, a 10-year-old racehorse, was swept out to sea after being taken for a swim to treat a knee injury. The horse threw its rider and was carried out half a mile before being rescued by a port pilot's boat from Workington docks in Cumbria. The horse was lassoed by the crew of *The Derwent* and brought back to shore by David Payne, a stable worker, who jumped off the rocks and swam out to it.

Kate Birkett, 40, a trainer who runs the Garfield House Stables at High Seaton, Cumbria, with her husband, Jack, said: "He had just raced at Perth and picked up a knock to his knee. Usually he would have been given antibiotics but, as he was due to run again soon, it would have been picked up in a dope test."

"So the next best thing was to take him down to the sea and rub some saltwater on his sore leg. The girl riding him is a good and experienced rider,

but he reared while he was in the water and threw her off. He charged into the waves and, when he found he was in deep water, he started to swim. I was beside myself. I could see him disappearing off into the waves until his head was just a dot. I really thought he was going to drown."

Mrs Birkett and the stable girl ran to the Workington harbour office to raise the alarm. The harbourmaster put out a mayday call to David Turrier, captain of *The Derwent*.

Captain Tancred, owned by Colin Warwick, of Wigan, has won in the past at Wetherby and Uttoxeter and has come in second in each of his three races this season.

Mrs Birkett added: "I have taken some stick from a few people. One of my friends, racing suggested he might be a good bet in a three-horse race - against Oxford and Cambridge."

## Pupils are removed in parent protest

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A GROUP of parents withdrew their children from a village school yesterday after claiming that the headmistress was too strict.

Dorothy Wilson, the head of the 42-pupil Wilden Lower School, near Bedford, has been investigated by the police and the governors after complaints from some parents over her policy on discipline. Mrs Wilson was cleared of mistreating the five to nine-year-olds.

The parents of six children removed yesterday said that more would follow. The 45-year-old headmistress has been on sick leave since Easter. On hearing that Mrs Wilson would return when she was well, Louise Hart removed her four sons from the school. She said: "Children are petrified of her." Karen Brown said: "I think over half the parents could boycott Wilden Lower."

But a meeting attended by half the parents yesterday backed Mrs Wilson. Sharon Buckingham, chairwoman of the Parent Teacher Association, said: "A proper investigation has been carried out. Parents who still have their children in the school are very supportive of Mrs Wilson." Steve Powell, a parent, added: "She has done a great job."

## Payout over road safety trailer death

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

A STUNT motorcyclist whose wife died after being hit by a road safety trailer was awarded an undisclosed six-figure sum yesterday. Donna Bromham, 31, was struck by the trailer's side canopy as she walked along the pavement at a vintage steam and car rally where her husband, Christopher, was performing.

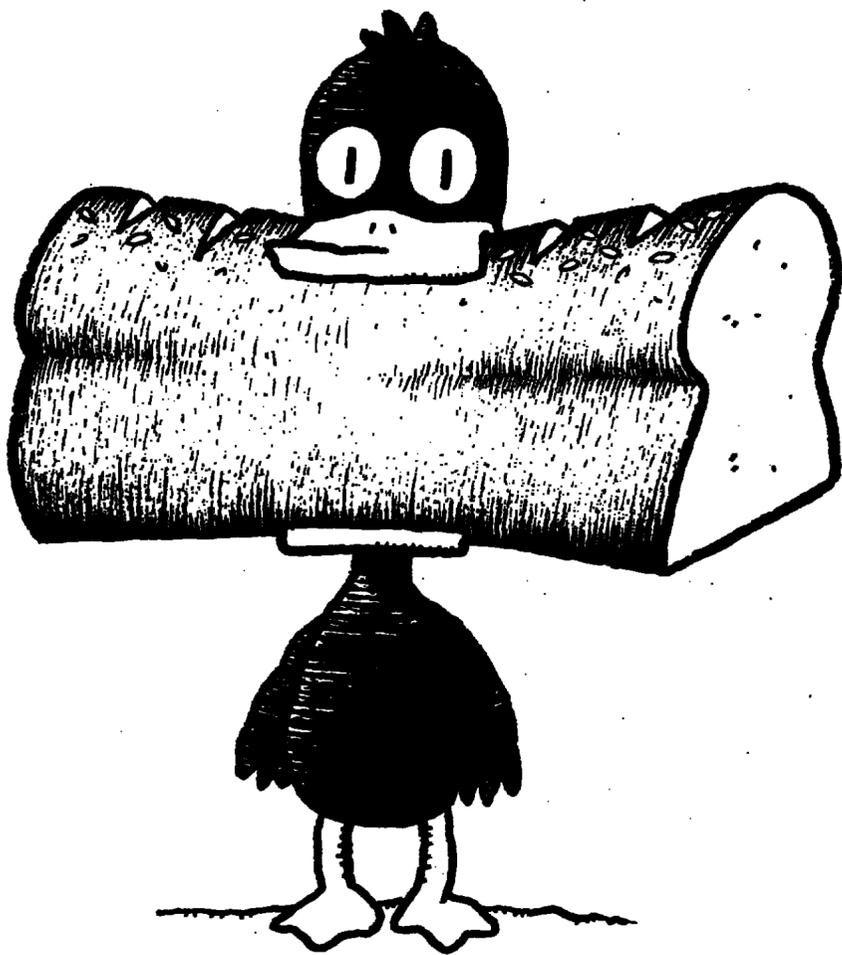
The canopy had been left open by mistake and was flapping dangerously as the Scottish Road Safety Campaign trailer was towed by a van that mounted a kerb at Nairn, Highland, in July 1992. Before hitting Mrs Bromham, of Swansea, the canopy demolished a give-way sign.

The driver, who later pleaded guilty to driving a vehicle in a dangerous condition, was unaware of the accident and continued to Inverness without noticing the warnings of motorists.

Mr Bromham, 41, was unable to return to work for almost three years, suffering depression. He sued Highland Regional Council for £950,000.

The case was settled at the Court of Session, Edinburgh, after the local authority admitted liability. Mr Bromham resumed his career in August 1995, when he achieved a world record by jumping over 21 juggernauts.

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THE TIMES DILLONS FORUM

### An evening with Toni Morrison

TONI MORRISON, the Nobel prize-winning author, will be reading from her long-awaited new novel, *Paradise* (Chatto & Windus £16.99), at a Times/Dillons Forum on Monday, May 18. This event, chaired by Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, offers readers the rare opportunity to ask Morrison questions about her life and work.

The forum, at 7.30pm at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London, WC1E, marks the publication of *Paradise*. Morrison's first book for five years. The admission price of £10 (concessions £7.50 for students, pensioners and the unemployed on production of valid ID) includes £2 off copies of *Paradise*.

TONI MORRISON FORUM

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Please note that tickets will be posted until May 11 only. Tickets booked after this date will be held for collection on the night at the event. If you do not receive your tickets please call 0171-467 1690 to confirm your booking.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arrest in reopened murder inquiry

Arrest in reopened murder inquiry

Climber dies

Climber dies

Teacher jailed

Teacher jailed

Aids legal move

Aids legal move

Owl help sought

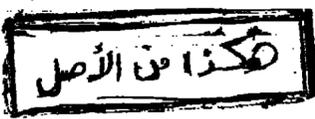
Owl help sought

One-way traffic

One-way traffic

CORRECTION

CORRECTION





# How kidnappers made a meal out of a crisis

Family tell of cooking and kindness by their Yemeni captors, write Daniel McGrory and Helen Rumbelow

THE gravest danger that David Mitchell and his family faced during their 17 days of captivity in Yemen was that they would be overtaken by their captors.

They were so generous, so courteous. We simply couldn't eat everything put before us.

Yemen. An official said yesterday: "It all sounds a bit whimsical, with captors being fed like house guests, but one time this could so easily go wrong and end in violence. We have to impress on the Yemenis the need to stop this tactic."



Ben, David and Carolyn Mitchell at Gatwick yesterday. "We were always given our own room and all the privacy we needed"

**6 We never felt our lives were at any risk. We could come and go as we wanted. It was all very relaxed**

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Arrest in reopened murder inquiry

A man was arrested yesterday in connection with the murder of a schoolgirl nearly six years ago. Police confirmed that a man aged 25 from the Portsmouth area was being questioned.

## EU schemes 'are ruining the best wildlife areas'

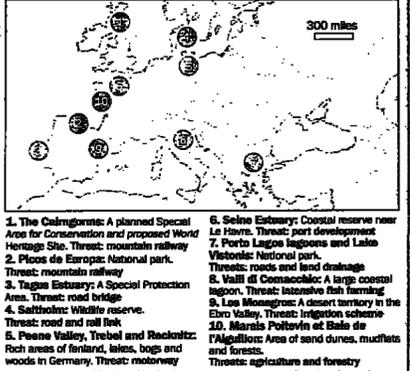
By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

PREMIER wildlife sites from the Cairngorms to the Tagus estuary in Portugal are being destroyed by transport, development and farming projects funded by the European Union.

Union needed to put its own house in order before accusing developing nations of failing to support the Convention of Biological Diversity agreed at Rio Earth Summit in 1992.

duck, avocet, imperial eagle, night heron, whiskered tern, little bustard, lesser kestrel and black-winged stilt.

## THE SITES AT RISK



- 1. The Cairngorms: A planned Special Area for Conservation and proposed World Heritage Site. Threat: mountain railway
- 2. Picos de Europa: National park. Threat: mountain railway
- 3. Tagus Estuary: A Special Protection Area. Threat: road bridge
- 4. Saltholm: Wildlife reserve. Threat: road and rail link
- 5. Peene Valley, Tiedel and Raacknitz: Rich areas of farmland, lakes, bogs and woods in Germany. Threat: motorway
- 6. Seine Estuary: Coastal reserve near Le Havre. Threat: port development
- 7. Porto Lagoas lagoons and Lake Vitoria: National park. Threat: roads and land drainage
- 8. Valli di Comacina: A large coastal lagoon. Threat: intensive fish farming
- 9. Llan Mawrgan: A desert territory in the Ebro Valley. Threat: irrigation scheme
- 10. Marais Poitevin et Balle de l'Alouette: Area of sand dunes, mudflats and forests. Threat: agriculture and forestry

## RSPB calls for ban on dredging

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

HUNDREDS of thousands of wild birds are being put at risk by dredging for shellfish on England's East Coast, campaigners said yesterday.

protected status there is nothing to stop dredging going ahead, using hydraulic methods that leave trenches up to two feet wide and ten feet deep.

## Climber dies

A 38-year-old man has died in a climbing accident in the southern Alps at Orpierre, France, police said.

## Teacher jailed

A former teacher at a Roman Catholic boarding school was jailed for eight years at the High Court at Kilmarnock for sex offences.

## Aids legal move

A council's refusal to move a woman seriously ill with Aids from "crowded" B&B accommodation is to be challenged in the High Court after a judge said she could seek judicial review.

## Owl help sought

The Hawk and Owl Trust is asking people to sponsor nesting boxes for barn owls in Norfolk to replace natural sites washed away in last month's rains.

## One-way traffic

A police appeal has led to the recovery of just one traffic cone in Dorset, despite the promise of an amnesty.

## CORRECTION

Baroness Denton of Wakefield is still a director of Burson-Marsteller, contrary to a report of May 2.

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\* Claims based on 1997 customer preference study.

# Channel 4 stands accused of losing its originality

### ITV watchdog says the station created to be different is not innovative enough, reports Raymond Snoddy

CHANNEL 4, the channel created to be different, was accused yesterday by the Independent Television Commission of losing "some of its innovative drive" last year.

In its annual review of the performance of commercial television, the commission reserved some of its sharpest criticism for the channel — by implication a criticism of the final year of the regime of Michael Grade, the former Channel 4 chief executive. Michael Jackson, who took over as chief executive of Channel 4 in May, would not have had much impact on last year's schedule.

Although there was still some fresh and challenging work, the commission said that more "landmark" programmes could have been expected and called on the new senior management at Channel 4 to address various programme issues — from greater distinctiveness in adult education output and a broadening of the range of religious programmes to greater variety and depth in science and improved scheduling of foreign-language films.

The commission also said that Channel 4's compliance with the commission's programme code was the worst since 1993 and that the channel had been told by the ITC "this must improve". There were 14 breaches of the commission's programme rules, the highest number since 1993, from bad language

and undue prominence of commercial products to portrayal of an assault on a woman that was unsuitable for family and children's viewing.

Peter Rogers, the commission's chief executive, conceded: "This is largely a review of the old management but also of the old money." The "old money" is a reference to the fact that as much as £90 million a year had to be handed over by Channel 4 to ITV under a funding formula that is now being phased out. Channel 4 admitted last night that 1997 had been "a year of transition" but added that underpinning all the changes at the channel was "a renewed commitment to the remit, in particular to increasing innovation across the whole range of our expanded commissions".

The main complaint against



No surprises: Cilla Black is on again

ITV companies was their continuing failure to produce high-quality comedy. Sir Rob Biggam, chairman of the commission, said: "We think light entertainment is a weak component of their schedule."

The lack of diversity within the peak-time schedule remained a problem, with network drama — some of it very high quality — increasing while entertainment, including comedy, continued to decline, the review said.

Factual programmes at peak time were too preoccupied with crime, the emergency services and the paranormal, and the limited coverage of international issues in current affairs was "disappointing".

LWT, the London weekend broadcaster, was singled out for continuing "to rely on familiar faces and approaches", with programmes such as *You Be!*, *Barymore*, *Play Your Cards Right*, *Surprise Surprise*, *Blind Date* and *Gladiators* returning again.

The ITC said that Channel 5 had made a promising start in its first nine months on air but should strive to achieve more consistent quality and greater distinctiveness.

The review came out at the same time as the commission highlighted just how well commercial television is doing financially. Revenue totalled £4.733 billion, an increase of 14 per cent over 1996. Advertising accounted for £2.648 billion of the total.

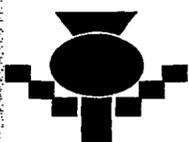
## INDEPENDENT VIEW: ITC'S VERDICTS ON 15 REGIONAL TELEVISION COMPANIES



**ANGLIA Television Limited**  
Praised for improving regional identity and for creating such series as *Backstage*, which enhanced arts coverage in region. Developments required in regional entertainment



**GRAMPIAN TELEVISION**  
Responded positively to criticism last year by exceeding minimum regional requirements, and continued excellence on network franchises such as *Gold Feet* and *The Grimleys*. Criticised for handling of some viewers' complaints, including those on changes to *Coronation Street*



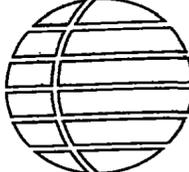
**SCOTTISH TELEVISION**  
Comprehensive political coverage in momentous year for Scotland. High-quality Gaelic programmes and documentaries added to network drama and entertainment



**BORDER**  
Milestone year as a cross-border franchise, covering Scottish devolution and moving into regional drama with *Writing on the Edge*. More of its strong regional programmes should be shown in peak slots

### CARLTON

Criticised in the past, praised yesterday for strength of regional news and social action programmes. Major contribution to the network with programmes such as *Rebecca and Cadfael* and "provided high quality programmes in a wide range of categories, especially drama and children's programmes"



**CENTRAL TELEVISION**  
Central Television's popular and high-quality programmes reflect Midlands interests well. Network successes include *Peak Practice* and *Inspector Morse*

### CTV4

Smallest ITV company provided service well appreciated by viewers, including comprehensive coverage of local elections and *Island Games*, despite management restructuring and death of presenter Paul Brown



**GRANADA TELEVISION**  
Despite takeover by Scottish, confident performance included such award-winning factual programmes as *Please Leave The Light On*, an end of manned lighthouses



**HTV**  
Wales and West company now owned by United News and Media provided programme services that were "diverse and overall of high quality", although in Wales the level of repeats in some strands of programming remained a concern



**LWT**  
Attractive and varied regional service including new lifestyle programmes. But continuing to rely too heavily on "familiar faces and approaches" in network drama, entertainment and arts. "The ITC hopes that LWT will respond positively in 1998 to the Network Centre's stated intention to revitalize weekday network output"



**MERIDIAN**  
Improved in several areas, including current affairs and arts. Concern about regional relevance and quality, but praise for much-praised *Donnybrook* and *Child Of Time*



**TYNE TEES TELEVISION**  
Despite Granada takeover, performed well. Regional drama *Quayside* added diversity but ITC looking for "better quality in certain aspects of the regional service and in particular more innovation in political and religious programmes"



**U TV**  
High standard of Ulster programming against background of major political events, including series on North-South differences, *Crossing The Borders*, and arts and entertainment series for older teenagers, *The Loop*



**westcountry**  
Mostly well above average with professional, comprehensive news and quality factual programmes. Now owned by Carlton but strong regional appeal maintained



**YORKSHIRE TELEVISION**  
More self-assured than in previous year, including high-quality news services for sub-region. But did not meet requirement for other regional programming, which must be made good this year

## First step for new drugs courts

By PAUL WILKINSON

REFERRALS to the country's first "drugs courts" began yesterday. Based on an American system, the courts are specifically set up to handle, and, if possible, rehabilitate drug-users involved in crime. From now on people in the Wakefield area of West Yorkshire who commit offences to pay for drugs, or who are

under their influence, could appear before a special magistrates court in the city. The first cases will be heard next month and a second court is due to begin operations in August in neighbouring Pontefract.

The Substance Misuse Treatment and Enforcement Programme (Step) was implemented by Keith Hellawell, the former Chief Constable of West Yorkshire who was recently appointed to head

the fight against narcotics. He visited courts in the US where such schemes are already in operation and helped to get the project off the ground. His police authority gave an initial funding promise of £200,000 to run it, which has since been added to by commercial sponsors.

Three pharmaceutical firms, a medical group and a computer systems company have given a total of £60,000 in spite of having no involvement in the scheme.

## Police plan for national DNA database rejected

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A POLICE proposal for a national DNA database of the entire population was dismissed yesterday by Home Office officials, chief constables and civil libertarians.

The plan was put forward by Chief Superintendent Peter Gammon, the new president of the Police Superintendents' Association, who said a database would cut costs and save time during investigations. He said sex attackers and murderers who became serial offenders could be caught as they began their lives of crime.

Mr Gammon said: "Obviously it could not be achieved overnight — there are financial, ethical and civil liberties considerations, the need for safeguards to be introduced. But I am asking that it be given a cool and frank discussion over a period of time."

He said the base could also be used in medicine to identify donors. Safeguards would be built into the system and police might have to apply to courts for permission to use the database.

Mr Gammon put forward his idea on the eve of today's expansion of the current DNA service for police. The Laboratory of the Government Chemist is offering testing facilities in competition with the Forensic Science Service. But the

Home Office and senior police said they were not contemplating any further growth.

A spokesman for the Home Office said Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, was prepared to discuss the idea with Mr Gammon but officials felt it was too expensive and would be seen as an infringement of privacy.

The Association of Chief Police Officers said a database for fingerprints would be easier to set up but they had no plans to advocate such a move, and certainly not DNA data collections.

The proposal was criticised by Liberty as "unbalanced, misguided and wrong".

## Report alerts forensic unit over security

By NIGEL HAWKINS, SCIENCE EDITOR

TIGHTER security is needed by the Forensic Science Service to foil attempts by criminals to tamper with evidence and to prevent theft of drugs and firearms, the National Audit Office concludes in a report published today.

The service provides scientific analysis and advice for the police. In 1996 there were three thefts of drugs and three of computer equipment from the service's premises. One arson attack destroyed evidence for 40 criminal cases.

The report says that the success of the national DNA database has led to a backlog of 120,000 samples waiting to be logged by the service.

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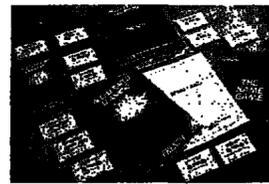
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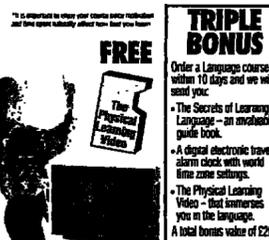


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Messa says, "It's revolutionary." The Daily Mail reported that "Children using Accelerated Learning are racing ahead." "The results are spectacular."

BBC and ITV news recently reported on a school where ten times more students used Accelerated Learning Courses got top marks compared with those using conventional courses.

Australian TV news reported "Astonishing success." "They did two years work in three months."

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## Shadow cast by 'Donnygate' will sway result

By PAUL WILKINSON

NEW Labour faces a stern test of public opinion on how it has resolved its old problems of power abuse in its traditional heartlands when voters in Doncaster put the party to the test tomorrow.

The council for the former coal-mining community in South Yorkshire has been deeply shamed by the so-called "Donnygate" scandal. Leading figures on the Labour-controlled authority have been accused of arrogant abuse of their position, exploiting expenses and of bullying officials, bending planning policy and taking favours to help developer friends.

Last Christmas the district auditor castigated councillors over their behaviour, and last week a group of Doncaster voters with the slogan "Name the Names" went to London to lobby the Audit Commission to publish the identities of councillors criticised in its investigations. Two councillors have been arrested during a continuing police inquiry into corruption claims, but as yet no charges have been laid. In an attempt to cleanse the party, the leadership of the council's Labour group has been replaced and four councillors have been suspended by the local party, which has itself been suspended by the national executive.

The party's suspension means that regional officials working for national headquarters have vetted tomorrow's candidate list. That has led to awkward situations in which sitting councillors have

## CHILDREN IN SUDAN ARE DYING

She's exhausted and starving, but she's walked all day to bring her grandchild to a relief centre. She may be too late.

Civil war and drought have brought thousands of children to the brink of death in Sudan. Malnourished, exhausted and sick, they are in desperate need of help. As the lead agency coordinating relief efforts in southern Sudan, UNICEF is providing high-energy foods, medical supplies and shelter to as many as possible. But every day more children move closer to starvation.

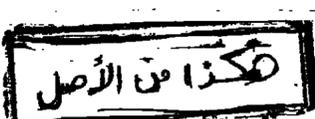
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# Officials failed to inform Cook of arms deal inquiry

### Nicholas Watt on the Sierra Leone weapons affair

ROBIN COOK was kept in the dark for two months about a Customs and Excise inquiry into an alleged breach by civil servants of the United Nations arms embargo on Sierra Leone, MPs were told yesterday.

Tony Lloyd, a Foreign Office Minister, said that Mr Cook was told of the investigation only on Friday, although his officials had referred the matter to Customs and Excise in February. Mr Lloyd, in an uncomfortable appearance before the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, said that ministers were finally informed of the inquiry 48 hours before a Sunday newspaper published allegations that civil servants secretly sanctioned the supply of weapons and mercenaries to Sierra Leone by a London company, Sandline International. Officials had failed to inform ministers because "alarm bells" had not rung. MPs on the committee lined up to challenge Mr Lloyd after it was alleged over the weekend that Foreign Office officials gave approval for Sandline International to supply mercenaries and weapons for the successful military operation that restored civilian rule in Sierra Leone in March. Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Spicer, a former army officer who runs Sandline, said that he had been granted an export licence for the arms and ammunition. Mr Lloyd told MPs that ministers had not approved any activity by Sandline, but

added that he could not give detailed answers because the matter was the subject of a Customs and Excise inquiry and an internal Foreign Office inquiry. The Foreign Office inquiry will look at claims that Peter Penfold, Britain's High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, colluded with Sandline over the deal.

Sounding unsure of himself, and claiming that he had just got off the 6am train from Manchester, Mr Lloyd said: "The difficulty I have at this stage is that I am not sure that the information I have at this stage is accurate or otherwise. We are in the process of trying to ascertain exactly what did take place and what was done by individual officers."

MPs were so irritated by his refusal to provide full answers — at one point Mr Lloyd said he had not been properly briefed because of the bank

holiday — that they muttered and gasped as he spoke.

The MPs expressed astonishment when Mr Lloyd admitted that he had only been informed of the Customs inquiry on Friday. The oversight by Foreign Office officials meant that when Mr Lloyd first denied allegations about Sandline and Sierra Leone, during a Commons debate in March, he made no mention of the Customs inquiry.

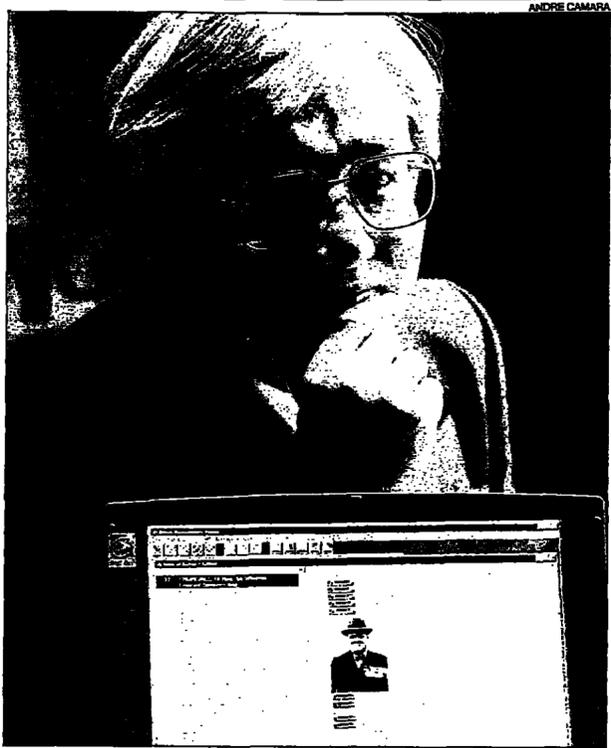
David Wilshire (C, Spelthorne) told the committee: "I started by being cross. I now feel sorry for Mr Lloyd. I feel he has been hung out to dry by officials. Time may tell that he has been hung out to dry by the Foreign Secretary."

Mr Lloyd defended Mr Cook, but offered nothing in defence of his officials. He said: "Mr Wilshire is entirely wrong to suggest that the Foreign Secretary has attempted to do anything other than get to the bottom of these very serious allegations."

Later Mr Wilshire said he would table parliamentary questions after the minister's "shambolic" performance. "If we are at the stage where the Foreign Secretary is not told about criminal matters that have been referred to a criminal investigation by his own civil servants, what kind of Government have we got? I think the committee was incredulous that somebody could be kept in the dark because of such ignorance by his officials."



Lloyd: could not give detailed answers



Yoshi Onuma: paid £1 million for a lesson in "how to win and lose an empire"

BY ANDREW PIERCE  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

### British archive sold to Japan

A JAPANESE entrepreneur who paid £1 million for the most comprehensive bound collection of British parliamentary papers has turned them into a computer guide to Westminster covering the years from Pitt the Younger to Churchill.

The 12,000 volumes of parliamentary papers, dating from 1801 to 1944, weigh eight tonnes. If the seven million pages were laid end to end they would stretch from John O'Grada to Land's End and back.

The papers, which had collected dust for years in the library of the Department of Trade and Industry, were sold to Yoshi Onuma, a businessman and antique book collector who is an avid scholar of the British Empire. They are now one of the most talked about exhibits at the National Museum of Ethnology in Osaka.

The £1 million fee went to

### British archive sold to Japan

the Treasury. Other Whitehall departments are also considering selling historic papers to raise revenue and release space.

A spokesman for the Department of Trade and Industry said that the papers had been copied on to microfiche. Academic institutions such as the Bodleian Library also hold master copies of the papers.

Professor Roy Church, Dean of the School of History at the University of East Anglia, and Professor Peter Mathias, president of the International Economic History Association, have produced a detailed CD-

Rom of indexes to the collection. Copies are being sold to academic institutions around the world for thousands of pounds each.

Ireland dominates the indexes, with 43,000 references covering everything from uprisings, famine and partition. Churchill has 130 references.

The documents are one of the most detailed sources of British history. But Japan is referred to on only 6,000 pages, mostly concerning reports from Queen Victoria's Legation in Japan about the country's silk industry.

Mr Onuma, 54, from Tokyo, offered a simple explanation for his decision to buy the archive. "It is an important lesson for Japan on how to win and lose an empire. The British Empire, which is covered by this period, was the most powerful in the world. This is about the rise and fall. It is compelling stuff for students and captains of industry. Japan does not wish to make the same mistakes."

# Markets will now decide sterling's fate

POLITICIANS and pundits are usually unwise to second-guess financial markets. They often get it wrong. All those sceptics on Sunday who predicted that the wrangling in Brussels would produce turmoil in the markets, and a soaring pound, have been proved mistaken. The markets have so far been calm, and the pound has slipped slightly against the mark.

No one disputes that Saturday's meeting was a mess, from which no one emerges with much credit, except perhaps Wim Duisenberg, president designate of the European Central Bank. Tony Blair was not able to exercise his usual authority and was forced to be an uneasy chairman trying to umpire the Franco-German-Dutch squabble and the tensions within these governments. That resulted in an unusually tricky, and defensive, hour for him in the Commons yesterday, even though his case about Mr Duisenberg's position was reasonable.

The real question, as Paddy Ashdown argued yesterday, is whether this fuss really matters compared with the momentous decisions taken over the weekend. The European Union has a history of such unseemly rows when it is finalising its most important developments. But however clumsy President Chirac's behaviour, the underlying credibility of the European Central Bank has not been undermined. Mr Duisenberg has impeccable central bank credentials and will be in charge for at least four years while the euro becomes bedded in and notes and coins enter circulation. Moreover, the other board members have a similar pedigree and can hardly be accused of monetary laxity.

In retrospect, William Hague may have erred by concentrating yesterday on the immediate disarray in Brussels. He certainly showed his formidable skills as a Commons performer and roused his own backbenchers. But this may be a very short-term debating success if the markets continue to take a favourable view of the euro and soon forget the weekend's squabbling. Mr Hague would have done better to have focused on the structural prob-

lems of creating a single currency in an area where there remain big differences in labour and other markets and on the differences between the British and continental economies. It is these matters that will decide whether the euro becomes established rather than whether Mr Duisenberg retires when he is 67 of his own choice.

The position of the sceptics is anyway somewhat strange. They have presented themselves as more pure than the pure in insisting upon a strict interpretation of the Maastricht criteria even though they disagree with the whole project — and a stricter view than the 11 initial participants themselves believe is justified. That has produced some curious contradictions. When Tony Benn protested about the lack of democratic accountability of an unelected board of central bankers, some Tory sceptics nodded vigorously, even though Mr Hague's

**RIDDELL  
ON POLITICS**

main thrust was that the integrity of an independent European Central Bank free from political control had been compromised by the French.

The focus on Mr Duisenberg also distracted attention away from Britain's relations with the euro, though a distinguished band of veteran Labour pro-Europeans headed by Giles Radice, Robert Sheldon, Tam Dalyell and Stuart Bell did press the question of early entry and whether we would shadow the euro. If Mr Blair is right in his bold claim that the euro will be "strong", then pressure will increase for Britain to join sooner rather than later — not least because British companies will make increasing use of the euro in domestic transactions. Gordon Brown is likely to step up the government programme to help business and the public sector to prepare for possible entry early in the next Parliament. The politicians have had their say. The markets will now determine whether the euro succeeds — and what happens to sterling.

PETER RIDDELL

# Labour rebel seeks police help

A LABOUR Party officer who was expelled for helping in the successful private prosecution of a Blairite MP asked police yesterday to investigate the Prime Minister for contempt of court (Dominic Kennedy writes).

Mike Davies, former vice-chairman of the Leeds North East constituency party, handed a dossier to a detective inspector in Leeds accusing

party chiefs of interfering with the course of justice.

The leftwing activist was the driving force behind a private prosecution which resulted in Fabian Hamilton, the newly elected MP, being fined £200 last month after pleading guilty to four breaches of the Companies Act.

Mr Davies argues that Labour's National Executive Committee sought to intimi-

date and punish him, and stifle the prosecution, by threatening expulsion at a time when the court case was still active and unheard.

On the basis of his part in the private prosecution and five other allegations, including two media attacks on Tony Blair, an NEC inquiry panel recommended the expulsion of Mr Davies, which was confirmed in December.



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# Former British defence chiefs warn Blair against Nato expansion

By MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A GROUP of former senior military commanders and ambassadors have written to Tony Blair warning of their "deep misgivings" over the proposed enlargement of Nato.

Czech Republic full membership of the alliance next year. The intention is to keep the door open for more members from Central and Eastern Europe at a later stage.

such as the Baltic states. The letter, sent to Downing Street yesterday, is signed by 23 people, including two former Chiefs of Defence Staff: Lord Bramall and Lord Carver, and four former ambassadors, Sir John Killick who served in Moscow and Nato, Sir John Graham (Nato, Iran and Iraq), Sir Stephen Egerton (Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Italy), and John Edmonds, ambassador for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Other signatories include General Sir Hugh Beach, former Master General of the Ordnance, Lord Healey, former Labour Defence Secretary, General Sir Harry Tuzo, former Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Air Marshal Sir John Curteis, former Air Commander Falklands operations, and Sir Arthur Hockaday, former Assistant Secretary-General of Nato.

They acknowledged that the newly independent countries of Eastern Europe had legitimate security worries. "However, that does not give them the absolute right to become members of the alliance of their choice. We believe that enlargement of Nato is not the right way to give them the security they seek and will diminish the security of existing members," the letter said.

They argued that the extension of a security organisation designed to counter the threat from Russia "is incompatible with its stated aim of establishing constructive, co-operative relations of mutual respect with Russia."

It would be a mistake, they added, to interpret Moscow's signing of the Nato/Russia Founding Act, pledging co-operation and partnership, as Russian acceptance of enlargement. The signatories warned of the problems ahead of trying to reach consensus on key security issues with 19, and possibly more members, having to make decisions. They suggested that an alternative to Nato enlargement could be the formation of sub-regional "mutual assistance pacts, linked with but not integrated into Nato."

## Beijing derides Indian attack

FROM JAMES PRINGLE  
IN BEIJING

CHINA angrily rejected yesterday comments by India's Defence Minister, in which he talked of the military threat posed by Beijing.

## Blast on tanker forces captain to sacrifice crew

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

THE commander of the Australian Navy's largest ship yesterday took the decision to save the rest of his crew by sealing four sailors in the blazing engine room, consigning them to certain death, after rescuers were beaten back by the flames.

injured in the ten-minute rescue attempt before the engine room was sealed and the area flooded with carbon dioxide, ending the meagre hope for the trapped crew but bringing the blaze under control in 90 minutes. Nine crew members were airlifted to hospital in Perth suffering from burns and smoke inhalation.



A sailor is airlifted from HMAS Westralia

of the British sailor Tony Bullimore when his boat capsized during the Vendée Globe yacht race in the Southern Ocean. The ship, which was used for long-distance refuelling of ships and helicopters, served in the Falklands War in 1982 and was a key part of Australia's contingent sent to the Gulf War in 1990-91.



An injured crewman arrives at a Perth hospital yesterday after the explosion

## Waigel says Euro bank row with French damaged Kohl

FROM DEBORAH COLLCUTT IN FRANKFURT

THEO WAIGEL admitted yesterday that the argument over the presidency of the future European Central Bank (ECB) had damaged Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, who is widely seen as caving in to French demands.

Some German officials, including Bundesbank council member Klaus-Dieter Kühbacher, believe the fudge contravenes the Maastricht treaty, which stipulates the bank president should serve a minimum eight-year term.

Herr Waigel said yesterday that no one could stop Mr Duisenberg remaining as bank president for the full term. Referring to a statement written by Mr Duisenberg, but widely believed to have been conceived by politicians, which drew laughs from the media as it was read out in Brussels, Herr Waigel said: "Duisenberg put great value on the fact that he formulated this declaration [on early retirement] by himself without any pressure on him."

the by midday." Herr Waigel said, referring to the long negotiations. The minister denied a formal resignation date in the guise of a "gentleman's agreement" had been put in Mr Duisenberg's contract. "A date for his retirement is not included in Duisenberg's official declaration. He himself can decide how long he should stay in the job," Herr Waigel said.

## Job share 'ruled out'

THE president of the European Monetary Institute, Wim Duisenberg, said on January 31 "that he was 'as confident as ever' that he would be chosen to lead the European Central Bank despite a political row over who should get the job."

## Austrians swipe at Blair presidency

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN VIENNA

AUSTRIA yesterday promised that before any European summit later this year, it would engage in wider consultation far earlier than Tony Blair did before the launch of the single currency.

he told journalists that it was "important to discuss as much as possible before EU summits and ministerial councils". Austria takes over responsibility for the mechanisms for the euro immediately, as it will, unlike Britain, be a founding member of the euro.

### WORLD SUMMARY

#### Exile plot 'to kill Castro'

Miami: A botched plot to assassinate President Castro of Cuba last year has cast a spotlight on an influential Cuban exile group in America (David Adams writes).

#### 17 hurt at protest against Suharto

Jakarta: Indonesian riot police clashed with students at Parahyangan University campus in Bandung, west Java, as thousands of people across Indonesia protested against rising fuel and electricity prices and demanded the resignation of President Suharto.

#### Cambodians flee into Thailand

Geneva: The United Nations says that 17,000 Cambodians, mainly women and children of Khmer Rouge families, have fled fighting in their homeland in recent days, bringing to 87,000 the number of Cambodian refugees in Thailand.

#### China executes 'Enemy No 1'

Beijing: China has executed its official Public Enemy Number One, and six others, in the northwestern province of Xinjing (James Pringle writes). Officials said Bai Baoshan, 39, who robbed and killed 14 people and wounded 14 others after being released from prison in 1996, was executed on April 29.

#### Violence blacks out TV station

Istanbul: A leading Turkish television station has been blacked out as punishment for showing two American children's programmes deemed too violent. Show TV was ordered to shut down for 24 hours because it broke laws prohibiting programmes that impede young people's psychological, physical or moral well-being. It broadcast a black screen with the board's verdict. (Reuters)



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Advertisement for Basketball players league, illegitimate offspring, and other text on the right margin.

# Basketball players top league for illegitimate offspring

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

ALMOST every single player in the NBA, America's premier basketball league, has fathered a child out of wedlock — with the most wayward siring as many as seven with six different women — according to *Sports Illustrated* magazine.

Since about 85 per cent of the NBA's players are black, the report, entitled "Where's Daddy?", is bound to give rise to a prickly racial debate, not least within the black community. The players named as the fathers of more than one illegitimate child are exclusively black. The detailed disclosure of their off-court activities is likely to bolster the widely held stereotype of black American men — and highly paid black athletes in particular — as irresponsible fathers and sexual cavaliers.

The magazine names several players on its "NBA All-Fatherhood Team". They include such household names as Patrick Ewing, Juwan Howard, Shawn Kemp, Jason Kidd, Stephon Marbury, Hakim Olajuwon, Gary Payton, Scottie Pippen, and Isaiah Thomas. Larry Bird, a white player, is named too, although his transgressions would appear insignificant by comparison.

He pays an average \$6,000 (£3,750) a month for each child, a burden which led him to ask for a transfer from his old team to his present employers, who cushioned him with a seven-year contract worth \$107 million.

Another "cad of the court" is Larry Johnson, who was forced last November to take a paternity test by a woman who claimed that her child was his. Science vindicated her, and her three-month-old daughter — called Taylor Tate Johnson — became the seventh on the list of the player's known offspring. Two of those children are by his wife, Celeste, to whom he is still married.

Observers of the NBA say that the numbers of illegitimate offspring are staggering. One of the league's top agents told *Sports Illustrated*: "I'd say that there might be more kids out of wedlock than there are players in the NBA."

More than 70 per cent of all black children born in this country today are illegitimate, compared with 21 per cent of all whites.

The competitive environment in sport, experts argue, encourages athletes to try to prove their masculinity through sexual conquests.

The players and their minders are convinced that there is a plague of unscrupulous "gold-digging" women about. But as one NBA insider pointed out: "Athletes wouldn't be sending off so many paternity suits if they practised safe sex."



A gem thief releases a pigeon outside the perimeter fence of the diamond mine at Alexander Bay to demonstrate how gems are being smuggled out of the restricted area

# Pigeons fly diamond fortune into arms of thieves

Ingenious smugglers are costing a gem mine 20 per cent of production, writes Sam Kiley

A state-run South African mining company is locked in a bitter dispute with pigeon fanciers over its threat to shoot their prized racers after a spate of diamond thefts in which pigeons were used to carry off the gems.

Alexkor, which owns the diamond-mining town of Alexander Bay at the mouth of the Orange River in the northern Cape, has threatened to ban pigeons from the property after losing 20 per cent of its diamonds over the past few years.

Smuggled past the mine's barbed-wire fence and through body searches in large coats and lunch-boxes, the pigeons are used to carry uncut diamonds beyond the perimeter. The jewels are strapped to the legs of a bird which then flies into welcoming arms outside. The simple ruse has meant that thieves are able to

evade Alexkor's X-ray machines, which check employees for swallowed diamonds.

Security in the closed diamond areas along the shared coastline of South Africa and Namibia is extremely tight. Access to the town of Alexander Bay is only allowed after a search by security personnel. All goods purchased in diamond areas have to be abandoned when employees leave, including cars, freezers and television sets.

But the winged smugglers have found a way around the tight controls, forcing the mining firm to threaten a ban on pigeons and an

African National Congress MP to order that birds be shot on sight. "We have taken a decision to recommend to the board that they should outlaw pigeons in Alexander Bay," Thian Combrinck, the mine's chief executive said. "We could be losing up to 20 per cent of production due to diamond theft."

The local racing pigeon club, which has registered 900 birds worth £58,000, has vowed to fight the ban. "The problem isn't with the pigeon farmers. If the mine did its work and stopped people smuggling pigeons into the mine, there wouldn't be a problem," Koos Coetzee, chairman

of the club, said. He attacked the company for allegedly reneging on a deal to allow registered birds to stay within the mining area if members of the club helped to set up a "sting" operation last year. Codenamed after a popular angling fish to camouflage the police investigation, "Operation Steenbras" trapped thieves in possession of three pigeons loaded with uncut diamonds worth £10,000.

Police said yesterday that pigeons were selling at a premium after thieves amassed huge fortunes from operations in Alexander Bay and Namibia.

"Over the last three or four years you can see that the smuggling has been very successful because of the sharp rise in prices for pigeons in the area," a police investigator said.



McDougal arrives in chains at the Little Rock court

# Starr tightens net around Clintons

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE criminal investigation of the Clintons intensified yesterday after Susan McDougal, a former White House partner, was indicted in Little Rock, and one of the President's most powerful associates was called to testify for the third time before a grand jury in Washington.

Vernon Jordan, the President's golfing partner who helped to secure a job for

Monica Lewinsky following her alleged affair with Mr Clinton, was questioned again about whether he had encouraged the former White House trainee to either lie or remain silent.

His appearance before the Washington jury came as Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, successfully prosecuted McDougal for the second time over her refusal to testify about Mr Clinton's alleged illegal financial dealings as Governor of Arkansas.

McDougal, who has already served 18 months in prison for contempt, faces another substantial jail term for criminal contempt as the Little Rock grand jury concluded its inquiry into the Arkansas phase of Mr Starr's investigation. Charged in 1996 with civil contempt, the indictment this time included a new allegation: that she refused to answer questions about a written note on a 1983 cheque for \$5,081 (£3,175) that said "payoff Clinton".

Central to Mr Starr's prosecution had been efforts by his office to compel testimony from McDougal about a \$300,000 loan that David Hale, a banker, alleged Mr Clinton pressed him to solicit on her behalf.

McDougal has started a two-year term on fraud convictions in the first Whitewater trial and is awaiting trial on embezzlement charges involving her role as an assistant to the family of Zubin Mehta, the conductor.

Central to Mr Starr's prosecution had been efforts by his office to compel testimony from McDougal about a \$300,000 loan that David Hale, a banker, alleged Mr Clinton pressed him to solicit on her behalf.

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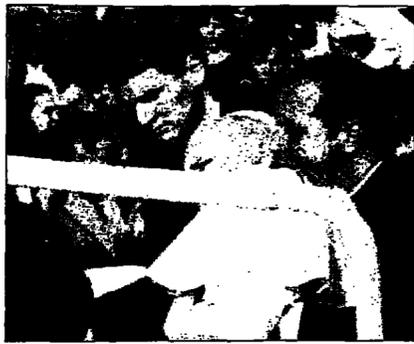
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Estermann, left, holds the Pope after he was shot

# Vatican murders 'were fit of madness'

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Vatican yesterday said that Colonel Alois Estermann, the newly appointed commander of the Swiss Guard, and his Venezuelan wife had been murdered by a disgruntled subordinate who "felt he was undervalued".

The murder caused deep shock in the Vatican, arousing the spectre of violence and instability among the hand-picked guards who protect the Pope's life. Post-mortem examinations were performed yesterday by Vatican doctors on the bodies of Colonel Estermann, 44, his wife Gladys, 49, and Vice-Corporal Cedric Tornay, who were found lying in a pool of blood in the Estermanns' Vatican apartment at nine o'clock on Monday evening by a neighbour who "heard a noise".

Joaquin Navarro-Valls, the Vatican chief spokesman, denied there was "any sexual motive" behind the killing. He said it appeared that Tornay, 23, had shot the commander and Mrs Estermann before turning his Swiss service revolver on himself.

Five of the gun's six bullets had been fired, and Colonel Estermann had been hit twice. One bullet was found in the ceiling. The gun was found beneath Tornay's body. Señor Navarro-Valls said the murder — the first inside the Vatican since 1948 — was "a fit of madness by a person with very peculiar psychological characteristics".

He said Tornay had handed his comrades a letter addressed to his family two hours before the killing, but did not divulge the contents.

There was speculation that Tornay had been conducting an affair with Mrs Estermann. But most friends of the couple discounted this, saying they were "a happy couple".

Señor Navarro-Valls said a "tragic quarrel" had arisen after Estermann, who had been interim commander of the force for the past six months, had reprimanded Tornay for falling to return to barracks at night after spending time off in Rome.

He said Tornay was angry at being punished by being



The Pope greets Colonel Estermann and his wife, Gladys Meza Romero, after he was appointed head of the Swiss Guard on Monday

refused a decoration during a traditional ceremony for new recruits scheduled for today, marking the anniversary of the Swiss Guards' defence of the Pope in 1527. The ceremony was cancelled.

Estermann rose through the Swiss Guard ranks to become deputy commander in 1989. He spoke five languages, including English, had studied theology, and accompanied the Pope abroad 30 times. He married Gladys Meza Romero, who worked in the Venezuelan Embassy to the Holy See, in 1983.

He was appointed to head the Guard on Monday after the Pope ruled that the Guard commander did not have to be "from a noble family".

As a young Guard Estermann shielded the Pope after the attempt on his life in St Peter's Square in 1981.

Señor Navarro-Valls said the investigation was in the hands of the Vatican's chief lawyer, Gian Luigi Marrone, and the Vatican had not asked Italy for judicial or police assistance.



Tornay: angry at being punished by Estermann

# Intrigue festers behind walls

Discipline and lack of privacy mark a guard's life, Richard Owen writes

THE murder has brutally exposed the world of intrigue which underlies the claustrophobic and cloistered life of Vatican City, one of the world's smallest sovereign states. "In the past the seamy side of Vatican life has led us into financial machinations and Mafia links," a Vatican official said yesterday. "Now it has led to murder."

The Pope's secretive 108-acre city state is all that remains of the once extensive papal lands, which until Italian unification in 1870 embraced most of central Italy. Its independence is guaranteed by a 1929 Concordat with the Italian state. But the Vatican lives a precarious and sometimes paranoid existence, dependent for water, electricity and other services on Rome. Its inhabitants — fewer than a thousand — live cheek by jowl in an atmosphere which, despite the

Vatican's spiritual purpose, is often parochial and fuelled by rivalries and jealousies.

Life is especially difficult for the Swiss Guards, most of whom are in their late teens and early twenties. A propaganda film on the Pope's protection force produced earlier this year suggests a life of good fellowship and civilian leisure. In reality, the guards' routine is a combination of discipline, graft and boredom. Recruits sleep ten to a room in the three-storey barracks, full halberdiers share rooms, and only married officers are given flats. Guards who leave Vatican City for the temptations of Rome must be back in their barracks by nightfall.

Not surprisingly, there have been incidents of rowdy

behaviour. Last year police were called when a group of off-duty guards became involved in a drunken brawl outside St Anna's Gate, the main "business" entrance to Vatican City, and there was a minor scandal when two guards were photographed by a magazine sunbathing naked on the roof of the Apostolic Palace, their halberds at their sides.

"We must not forget that the Swiss Guards are made of flesh and blood," said Mgr Alessandro Maggolini, the Bishop of Como. A former member of the Vatican security forces said: "No amount of football can make up for the lack of a normal life and female company."

Sources close to the guards

also spoke of "bad feeling" generated by the "question of class". Colonel Estermann came from a "humble farming family" in Lucerne whereas many guards, and nearly all their previous commanders, are drawn from "noble" Swiss families which have been in the papal service for centuries. "Anywhere else this kind of tension and resentment might easily be defused," a veteran Vatican-watcher said. "Behind the Vatican walls it festers and turns poisonous."

Insiders also blame "incessant secrecy" for the Vatican's lamentable record of financial skulduggery, particularly in the 1970s and 1980s. The Vatican became tainted by association with the debt-ridden collapse of the Banco Ambrosiano, run by Roberto Calvi, a Mafia-linked banker found hanging under Blackfriars Bridge in June 1982.

# Police chief Papon ordered Algerians to be shot on sight during Paris protests

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

MAURICE PAPON, the former Cabinet minister convicted of wartime crimes against humanity last month, gave orders for Algerian protesters to be shot on sight when he was Paris police chief in 1961, according to newly opened official archives.

The draconian orders emerged during an Interior Ministry investigation into the police crackdown on October 17, 1961, when Algerian demonstrators were beaten, shot and thrown into the River Seine. The investigator's report, published this week, concluded that police under Papon killed "dozens" of Algerian protesters. Officials have hitherto maintained that only

seven people died when a protest by thousands of Algerians over a curfew on their community was violently broken up by police. Many bodies were recovered from the Seine, and some historians have previously put the death toll as high as 300.

The report found that, just one month before the bloody protest, Papon had issued a memo with

orders that demonstrators caught "in flagrant crime... should be shot on the spot by the security forces".

This just reinforced what kind of person Papon was, Patrick Baudouin, head of the International Human Rights Federation in Paris, said. "He ordered people to be shot like dogs."

Papon, 87, was sentenced to ten

years in prison for helping to deport hundreds of Jews to Nazi concentration camps as a senior official of the collaborationist Vichy regime. He went on to become Budget Minister before his wartime activities were revealed. He remains free on appeal.

In the immediate aftermath of the 1961 demonstration, Papon maintained that the deaths had

been caused by fighting among rival Algerian groups rather than as a result of police brutality. During his war crimes trial Papon acknowledged that demonstrators had been thrown into the Seine, but insisted that the number of dead did not exceed "15 or 20".

"It must not be forgotten that this was a time of war," Papon said in an interview with *Le Figaro* yesterday, the first he has given since his conviction on April 2. "In the name of this war the FLN [Algerian National Liberation Front], under cover of a so-called peaceful demonstration, had issued arms to its shock troops."

"The curfew was imposed by the Minister of the Interior. The chief of police obeyed the public authorities."

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# US gives Israel ultimatum to break deadlock

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE United States yesterday gave Israel a May 11 deadline to approve its package of ideas for breaking the deadlock with the Palestinians or face the total collapse of the Middle East peace process.

In return, President Clinton has offered to meet Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, in Washington on May 11 to re-launch the so-called permanent status talks on the core issues that will need to be resolved before a comprehensive settlement can be reached. Under the Oslo accord of 1993, a final settlement is supposed to be signed by May next year.

State, after the second, unplanned, day of talks in London with the Israeli and Palestinian leaders. Tony Blair also had further talks with the two men.

Ms Albright said the Washington offer of talks was conditional on both parties accepting the American ideas.

Despite their efforts, any hope of a substantial breakthrough appeared to be dashed when Mr Netanyahu, at a 20-minute press conference at the Grosvenor House Hotel, emphasised that he was not prepared to make any sacrifices that would put Israel's security at risk.

The main outstanding disagreement is over the American proposal for Israel to withdraw from 13 per cent of

the occupied West Bank. Mr Netanyahu, who claimed that some "significant progress" had been made during the talks, flew back to consult his Cabinet colleagues, who have so far only approved a nine per cent withdrawal.

Once the "carrot" was offered of a meeting with Mr Clinton and proper permanent status talks, it became clear that the fate of the whole peace process lay in the hands of Mr Netanyahu. Mr Arafat had already agreed in principle to the American package.

Despite the gloomy prognosis that the peace talks were already dead, there still remained some optimists that the Israeli leader would be able to meet the May 11 deadline and defy the pessimists.

Ms Albright made it clear she had not given up hope, although she admitted she was realistic.

She said that if the May 11 deadline passed without a move from the Israelis, the whole American approach towards peace in the Middle East would have to be re-examined.

She said that Mr Netanyahu had been helpful and constructive and had come up with some of his own ideas.

Mr Blair, who was praised by all the parties for his role as mediator as well as host of the London talks, also refused to be downcast by the failure to reach an agreement at this stage on what was supposed to



Madeline Albright heads for talks yesterday with Yasser Arafat in London. Mr Arafat has accepted the US proposals

be the easier parts of a peace deal.

Apart from the withdrawal issue, there are also Palestinian requests for safe passage through the Gaza Strip and the opening of the airport and industrial zone in Gaza, and Israeli demands for better co-operation on security from the Palestinians and release of prisoners.

After another meeting with Mr Arafat at Downing Street, Mr Blair said there had been progress on the issue of the airport, industrial park and the release of prisoners, while agreement was also close on the third phase of Israeli troop redeployments from the West Bank.

Mr Blair said: "If you put all

these things together, there is progress. But we don't want to over-hype it and I hope both sides have found it valuable."

Although the Israeli and Palestinian leaders left London, talks will now continue between American envoy Dennis Ross and two of Mr Netanyahu's key aides, Danny Naveh and Yitzhak Molcho.

Mr Arafat said yesterday: "It's true that we are still facing obstacles from the Israeli side. But I can't say that the London talks have failed. I heard today from Ms Albright that there is some progress. I have informed her that I will go any place to revive the peace talks."

## Dovish rivals trail Netanyahu in poll

Jerusalem: An opinion poll published yesterday showed Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, with a commanding lead over his two declared left-wing and centre party rivals (Christopher Walker writes).

Political commentators said the poll showed that the emergence of Roni Milo, the Mayor of Tel Aviv, as a new centre party candidate would damage the moderate camp. It also signalled approval for the tough line adopted by Mr Netanyahu during the London

peace talks. The poll was conducted by the Dahaf centre and published in the Tel Aviv paper *Yedioth Aharonot*.

Were the elections to be held today, the poll found that Mr Netanyahu—almost halfway through his first term—would secure 35 per cent of the vote, the new Labour Party leader, Ehud Barak, would receive 27 per cent and Mr Milo would take 13 per cent. Of those polled, a further 18 per cent refused to respond and 7 per cent said that they would not vote.

not facing re-election for another term.

The President has allowed the Palestinians to tag along at talks that have become a simple negotiation between Israel and the United States. Whether or not Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat are prepared to travel to Washington for further talks will depend largely on Mr Clinton maintaining such a stance; neither side, it seems, is prepared to enter talks that might require a commitment.

vacuum the President has allowed to exist since the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, in November 1995.

Dennis Ross, his Middle East envoy, has made numerous trips to the region but he, like Ms Albright, has been unable to exert the pressure necessary for a settlement. Mr Netanyahu was able even to leak details of the US peace plan without paying a political price.

When appointed to the State Department last year, Ms Albright

longed honeymoon at the State Department, marred only by the chicanery of the Middle East.

Despite threatening Mr Netanyahu that the present phase of US mediation was near an end, Ms Albright was unable to find even the slightest sign of concession from an Israeli leader willing to disregard her warnings in favour of high poll ratings at home.

Without Mr Clinton's backing, both sides were able to play a game they have invented to fill the



Ammer's view of the talks in the Wienerzeitung

## Albright stalls on the road to peace with no hope of Clinton lift

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

MADELEINE ALBRIGHT was left bruised and embarrassed last night by her inability to secure any momentum for Middle East peace as President Clinton was blamed for his continuing failure to exert traditional American leadership in the region.

While the White House maintained that Mr Clinton's personal participation has been intense in

negotiating with both Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, few in Washington believe the President has any incentive to force a peace settlement.

It became clear after the London conference that the President had given his Secretary of State neither a mandate nor the confidence to take the lead in negotiations between either side. The result has been particularly galling for Ms Albright, who has enjoyed a pro-

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CHANGING TIMES

## Gates bid puts \$30m tag on artist

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

A STORMY North Atlantic seascape has fetched by far the highest price paid for an American painting. Its value pushed to \$30 million (£18.7 million) by the world's richest man.

Bill Gates, the Microsoft chairman whose net worth is put at more than \$50 billion, paid the eight-figure sum for Winslow Homer's *Lost on the Grand Banks* in a secret private sale, according to *The New York Times*. The sale has put Homer in the ranks of the costliest European painters and Mr Gates in the same art-buying league as the Getty Museum.

Homer's bold image of two fishermen peering over the gunwale of their wooden rowing boat in towering seas is considered one of his finest works. Its selling price is nearly three times the previous record for an American painting and \$12 million more than its seller, John Spoor Broome, a retired Californian businessman, was said to be asking.

The painting is likely to be hung with Mr Gates's growing collection in the \$50 million lakeshore mansion he is building outside Seattle.

Top five: According to Sotheby's, the most expensive American paintings auctioned are: John Singer Sargent, *Cashmere* (\$11.1 million, 1996); John Singer Sargent, *In The Garden, Corfu* (\$8.3 million, 1997); Frederic Edwin Church, *Home By The Lake* (\$8.2 million, 1989); John Singer Sargent, *Spanish Dancer* (\$7.6 million, 1994); Childre Hassam, *Room of Flowers* (\$5.5 million, 1993).

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# Knives out for bachelor Hague



After its trouncing last May, the Tory party thought it had reached rock bottom. But worse was to come in the battle to succeed John Major. Hywel Williams, the closest aide to the contender John Redwood, tells the inside story of the Conservatives' dirty war

April 1997, cruellest of Tory months, limped to its close. The Tories' bright day was done, and now they were for the dark. On the morning of May 2, John Major announced his decision to resign as leader of the Conservative Party. Having endured one six-week campaign, Tories now embarked on another, whose highly personalised tone continued their trauma. In opposition they repeated the quarrelsome, vindictive and perfidious patterns of behaviour long established in government. As he contemplated the ruins of so many careers on May 2, there were many disadvantages about John Redwood's position. Major's immediate resignation meant that he was no longer unique in enjoying freedom of political action. Had Major stayed indefinitely as party leader, or announced that he would quit in the autumn to ensure an orderly transition, Redwood would now, during the first weekend of May, be considering how to launch his leadership bid in circumstances that resembled his first coup. But Major's act forced all contenders into the light of day, and Redwood had to take his place among a gaggle of hopefuls, one among many in an egalitarian scramble for office.

It had long been assumed that Iain Duncan Smith would be Redwood's campaign manager, and indeed Duncan Smith had accepted the invitation at a meeting on Wednesday, May 7. The problem was that Duncan Smith was also considering standing, after being approached by ultra-sceptics who had fired Redwood. For the moment, he said, he would not declare his support — on which Redwood could, nonetheless, rely. He needed to consult his association. The fact that for ten days Redwood's own campaign

enough once he had embarked upon it, was also a vehicle for his own ambitions.

William Hague's emergence as a serious candidate had much disturbed Redwood since the early spring. When he saw the newspaper photographs of his newly engaged successor with his former assistant private secretary, he went very quiet, emerging from his reverie only to note the awkwardness of the pose as the Welsh Secretary draped his arm around his fiancée.

## GUILTY

Redwood's dismantling of Redwoodian Wales had not disturbed him, since he had the ambitious politician's reluctance to revisit the ancient past. Redwood had previously enjoyed making fun of his successor. Hague found himself in an awkward position after an expenditure settlement had left Welsh local government with less money than it wanted. He refused to be interviewed, and the BBC threatened to approach his predecessor — well known for his accessibility and his strong views on local democracy. With huge enjoyment Redwood reported Hague's tremulous approach in the Commons "looking like a very old baby".

The more he reflected on the matter, the more clear he was that the trimming temperament Hague showed in Wales disqualified him from leading the party. For example, Hague had caved in to environmentalists and agreed to issue a White Paper on the countryside in Wales, whereas Redwood had refused to match the English White Paper, deeming it an excuse for a further route march of the regulatory army over the countryside. Redwood realised the party did not want any of the candidates, himself included. But Hague's case was one of trappings of vacuity overlaid by the gloss of management theory. This, after all, was the candidate who, as a very young man, had memorised the majorities enjoyed by the Conservative Party in its parliamentary seats. Redwood would subsequently remark, on hearing the result of the final ballot: "They have actual-

ly chosen the worst of all the six candidates."

There was also an undeniably personal and cunning dimension to the endless relaying of stories about how Hague, sitting on his fiancée's knee, had learnt the words of the Welsh national anthem. Apparently new Celtic convictions had led Hague as incoming Secretary of State for Wales to stay overnight, and spend weekends, in carefully chosen "bed and breakfast" establishments. "Yes," said Redwood, in defensive response to wry reportage, "it's a very good job for a bachelor."

But some of Redwood's followers were making cruel insinuations about the "bachelor" nature of Hague's circle. Duncan Smith was especially crass in talking to journalists about the "bachelor boys" running Hague's campaign and *The Independent* gave especial prominence to this anachronistic recklessness. I told Redwood that his followers' zeal was overwhelming their judgment and that he should bring his heterosexual curts to heel. After all, he had a reputation for decency to maintain, whatever his private views. He rebuked Duncan Smith, who then delivered a homily to Redwood campaigners and urged unnamed offenders to desist from their slander.

Redwood had acted, albeit on my prompting and through a flawed intermediary. A climate of sneer and innuendo had developed, and been tolerated, in his presence, for he had a horror of forces that went against the grain of familial securities. He fell prey to ridiculous musings, brooding on men who shared homes, as Hague had once done. "I could never do a thing like that," he said, as if recoiling from a grotesque tribal activity.

A subsequent letter to *The Daily Telegraph* from the survey's organisers noted in passing his ambiguity, summarised the answers given by all the aspirant leaders, and concluded that Redwood's views were closest to the fellowship's convictions.

Redwood was most distressed at what he saw as his enforced emergence in the pink corner. He blamed himself for his opacity of language and his staff for not showing him the transcript of his remarks. "You know how strongly I feel about that sort of thing," he moaned. "Now it's splashed all over the *Telegraph*."

The leader-in-waiting looked ready to rend his garments as he paced the room, envisaging the shocked responses on the hearths of Middle England to the emergence of Redwood the social liberal. With a politician's capacity for revisionist editing, he maintained that his true position was that he wanted a strengthening of the disputed clause by more effective forms of legislation. That was why he had been "undecided".

Redwood had offered the Tory party a moral critique. He had a Sunday school horror of the lie and its political consequences. He had told the party's high command to apologise for the exchange-rate mechanism crash and subsequent Tory syllabus of errors. But Tory penitence was barely a strand in these May and June *événements*. Redwood, with his baffled virtue, was seen as part of the very structure of the Tory defeat. For two years he had explained why his party would be defeated, and so he would be punished for his clarity. To many a Tory it seemed that his own integrity had been pursued at the expense of his party.



Ffion Jenkins and William Hague: when Redwood saw pictures of the newly-engaged Hague, he noted the awkwardness of the pose



Redwood: baffled virtue

His sensitivities flared again when the Conservative Christian Fellowship published an interview conducted with him on May 22. The fellowship had spoken to all the leadership candidates to elicit their views on moral issues. The final question was whether they supported the retention of Clause 28, banning the "promotion" of homosexuality in schools. Redwood said evasively that he was "undecid-

ed". A subsequent letter to *The Daily Telegraph* from the survey's organisers noted in passing his ambiguity, summarised the answers given by all the aspirant leaders, and concluded that Redwood's views were closest to the fellowship's convictions.

That party was truly Major's and infected by that illiberal, intolerant spirit. The leadership campaign had shown how the capacity for debate and the expression of dissent had been crushed. The surviving rump was vulnerable to a management consultant's takeover bid. The world of Major and Hague, of Clinton and Blair, was carrying all before it in its crushing conformity, hostility to originality and sensitivity to the place-man's needs.

● *Extracted from Guilty Men by Hywel Williams, £10.95, published by Aurum Press on May 18. Times readers can buy the book for £7.95 by calling The Times Bookshop on 090 134459.*

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Revealed: the lies and betrayals of the Major Cabinet during one long, hot summer

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# Tackling life after death

**M**att Seaton opens the door looking completely in control. Long legs in Armani jeans, against one of which leans blond-mopped two-and-a-half-year-old Joe, muscular arms, in which Joe's twin sister Lola nestles, draped in a fluffy towel.

I am ushered into a spotless basement kitchen, all sunny yellow walls and stripped floorboards. Then, rosy-cheeked from their bath, the twins pad obediently upstairs after their father.

While the soothing sounds of a bedtime story drift downwards, I am left to survey the kitchen's poignant ornaments. There are two glass trophies on the mantelpiece, one from Granada TV's *What The Papers Say*, one from *UK Press Gazette*, both declaring Ruth Picardie — Matt's wife who died of cancer last September at the ludicrously early age of 33 — Columnist of the Year.

Next to them is a black-and-white photograph of Ruth, a dark-haired, handsome young woman with laughing eyes and a strong jaw. On a noticeboard is a colour snap of Matt fast asleep in a huge bed with the newborn twins slumbering beside him. For most of us, putting just one toddler to bed successfully is an ordeal. But in the space of half-an-hour Matt achieves not only a scream-free bedtime but also produces, with calm efficiency, a pungent and delicious homemade soup complete with crusty *Ciabatta*, fresh Parmesan and pesto sauce.

Matt, it is plain to see, is a cop. When I ask how he manages to be so disciplined in the face not only of terrible grief but also the uniquely shattering tiredness young children bring, he looks mildly surprised. "I like cooking, always have. And Ruth and I anyway used to split things pretty much 50-50."

The elder son of a Sussex solicitor, his childhood was conventional and happy. He was a shy boy who only really came into his own at Cambridge, where he read English. Ruth, by contrast, had a more bohemian upbringing. Her parents were South African emigrants, liberal intellectuals who subsequently divorced, and she was brought up and educated in London, Oxford and Reading, before going to Cambridge, where she read social anthropology.

She was darkly witty, outgoing and abrasive; he is quiet, thoughtful and a stoic. Seven months after Ruth's death he has not yet broken down, he confides; he is conscious of not wanting to burden his friends.

People cope with bereavement in various ways: work, alcohol, depression. Matt's way is to escape into the needs of his two demanding toddlers while at the same time watching, with some astonishment, the burgeoning of his freelance journalism career — a career which, one suspects, was previously very much in the shadow of his extraordinarily gifted wife's.

He has also, he admits, discovered an uncomfortable truth. "This sounds a bit weird, but you waste a lot of energy being annoyed by your partner and resenting what they're not doing. For example, it used to drive me crazy that when Ruth would put her clothes in the wash basket she'd put them straight in as she took them off, so her T-shirts would be inside out. This is incredibly anal and pathetic of



Ruth Picardie wrote with honesty about dying. Her widower, Matt Seaton, now bringing up twins, Lola and Joe, is confronting bereavement with similar candour. Interview by Sandra Parsons

me, but nothing would annoy me more than having to turn her wet laundry the right way round to hang up.

"And it's not that I'm glad I don't have her inside-out T-shirts any more, because of course I would wish for nothing more than to have her and her inside-out T-shirts, too. But if it's just you, and you've got to get on with it, there's no one else to resent."

"I'd never realised how much of a marriage's emotional energy, when you've got children, is absorbed by the negotiation of sharing the load of bringing them up. It's a funny thing to realise and you feel guilty realising it." He and Ruth, who had loved and lived with each other for 12 years, ever since they met in their second year at Cambridge, were not only husband and wife and parents but, as Matt says, best friends.

"I was a late starter. Ruth was my first serious girlfriend. We did a lot of growing up together, our relationship evolved. Having children put a big strain on it but I think we would have stayed the course. We liked each other and enjoyed each

other's company, were comfortable with each other, still fancied each other. We were always willing to work at it. Ruth confronted things head-on, she'd say, this isn't working, let's sort it out." Ruth died of breast cancer, which spread to her liver, lungs and — the final insult — to her brain, so that for much of the last month of her life she became a changed person, irritable and aggressive. Like Linda McCartney, who died of breast cancer last month, she was a vegetarian and a non-smoker. Unlike Linda's death (or at least the official version of it — a dignified family farewell at her bedside, while Paul told her to imagine she was riding through the bluebells on her favourite horse), Ruth's was to prove ugly, distressing and horribly unromantic.

The columnists she wrote about dying from cancer (in *The Observer's* Life magazine, edited by her sister Justine) were remarkable for their bravery and mordant wit, but most of all for their total lack of self-indulgence. No one had written about dying with quite such directness before. It should perhaps be

unsurprising that her husband is confronting bereavement with similar candour. Nevertheless, Matt is so resolutely unselfish that the effect is sometimes unsettling.

Those last few weeks were very hard and very bitter," he says. "It's really unquantifiable how much you're forced apart by the fact that one of you is dying, one of you is surviving. But the brain tumour changed her personality. She'd get incredibly annoyed with me. At its worst it was a bit like dealing with another toddler, because she was irrational but very strong-willed."

Then she had radiotherapy on the brain tumour. She definitely came back from the brink of dementia, and that was a huge relief. But she never quite got back to being the person she was before.

"I relied a huge amount on her mother and sister to look after her, they're both pretty amazing. And my mum was here, too. In a way they did almost more for Ruth than I did, because I was focused on

the kids. I was torn. I wish I'd had more energy and time for Ruth but in a way she didn't need it, or want it, particularly. To be absolutely frank, there were times in the last few weeks when Justine and I would say to each other, this is unspeakable. I wish she would hurry up and die."

"You think you're prepared for their death and then as soon as the person's gone you think, however awful it's been, oh, if I could just have them back. The thing you've been waiting for, and in a way half-wishing for, has happened and as soon as it happens you wish it undone."

Ruth's columns, together with an epilogue by Matt and a selection of the e-mail correspondence she conducted with her three closest friends, are now being published in a book, *Before I Say Goodbye*. Ten pence from each copy sold will go to the Lavender Trust, newly launched by fellow breast cancer sufferer Beth Wagstaff, whom Ruth met at a support group.

It aims both to inform women about the illness and to provide those who need it with money to spend on pampering

themselves. As Ruth herself observed, of all the countless medical and alternative therapies she tried, the only one that ever really helped was shopping.

In one typically bravura gesture she blew £425 on sexy underwear from Agent Provocateur, to surprise Matt on their first weekend away alone since having the children. It was, she e-mailed to her friend India Knight, madness, "but Matt will be so excited and, what the \*\*\*\*, I'm dying".

"It was an incredible gesture," says Matt now, laughing, "because Ruth was not a lacy underwear sort of person."

As she began gradually to decline physically, so Matt found himself taking on more and more responsibility for the children, until by the end he was taking them to nursery, collecting them, feeding, dressing and bathing them, and putting them to bed.

I made the transition from two parents to one easier, both for them and for Matt. He took them to see Ruth's body, laid out in the hospice. They were just two and he is still not sure how much they understand.

"They have been told that she's died, whatever that means for them, that she's gone and she can't come back. 'Mummy died' is in their vocabulary, and when they're upset they don't start crying for her. But the other day I was talking about going to see their grandparents and they said, 'and we'll see nanny, and Justine... and Mummy.' And I said, 'no, you won't see Mummy, because Mummy has died.' And you think well, have they got this at all?"

The two things which keep him awake at night are the fear of anything happening to the children, and the fear, on their behalf, of anything happening to him.

He promised Ruth he would work only a four-day week until Lola and Joe go to school, although they never had a definitive conversation about the future. "We kept putting it off; you think there's always going to be a moment near the end when you can have it. We had it in little bits every now and then."

"We talked about whether to move house; she wanted to see where they would spend the next phase of their lives. But it would have been completely impractical to move and she understood that. It was about having a stake in their future; it was the hardest thing for her to let go of."

They talked about what should go in the memory boxes she made for the twins, and Ruth also insisted that Matt should reappear. It is a prospect that, at the moment, he cannot imagine. "It was pretty hard to hear that and it must have been even harder to say it."

"There is often such a big gap between what you know intellectually to be true, and subjectively how you feel. In a way that's what bereavement is about, getting those two things to match."

"After a nasty illness like that your head is so full of how awful the last year, month, week has been, and that leaves you feeling angry and upset and bitter. You lose sight of what your relationship was before the cancer, and the good times you had when everything wasn't grim and desperate. I think it takes a long, long time to recover."

Before I Say Goodbye by Ruth Picardie with Matt Seaton and Justine Picardie, is published by Penguin at £5.99 on May 7

## Don't leave it all to the experts

**W**henever I hear the word parent used as a verb, my heart sinks. I am as wet as the next well-meaning Nineties mother — as child-centred or as dummy-whipped, depending on your point of view. Penelope Leach is my guiding counsel: I believe in showering my children with love, affection and respect. I endlessly invoke their brilliance and their beauty. Round at our place, you would think that Thomas the Tank Engine was an esteem train.

This is not to say I succeed brilliantly, but that I am aware of what I do not want to fail at. Whatever: I am conclusively not of the dour, withholding school of parenthood. But I just cannot stand all this soporific: what is worse, all this soporific combined with all that bossiness.

In principle I do understand what they are getting at: a new study published by the think-tank Demos is urging us all to take Parenting — and that is definitely with a capital P — more seriously. Demos says it should be taught at schools

and reinforced by television. Much as I hate the idea, there probably is something in this. I do not say you can teach people how to be good parents, but having an inclusive conversation about what that might mean cannot be a bad thing. There is a drawback, however, a massive drawback: in short, you see, it means bringing in the experts.

I remember that period of low confidence and panic after the birth of a first child when

the State brings in the experts — and into your home, too. Health visitors can be wonderful people, but there is something strange about having the baby police telling you when to feed or how to be a mother. You think it helps; you are grateful. But it necessarily undermines your confidence. After all, if you need to consult the kindly expert, how can you trust your own instincts? And if you cannot, I think you have no chance.

Life — motherhood, parenthood, take your pick — will be one long panicky struggle. Maybe it cannot be otherwise, but the good intentions of the professionals often mask the fact that they do not know any better than you and that, actually, no one does. This is

## A civilised world built on people making sacrifices

**W**HEN THE Irish journalist Veronica Guerin was shot dead after a long investigation into the criminal underworld she was held up as a heroine, a martyr to the journalistic cause. Now a book written by another Irish journalist, Emily O'casts aspersions on her behaviour.

Emily O'Reilly's thesis, or so she appeared to be saying on *PM* earlier this week, is that Guerin courted danger and that she could have protected herself and certainly should have been better protected from herself.

I have to say I remember the *What the Papers Say* Awards ceremony the year

before last when Guerin's small son went up to receive his mother's posthumously awarded gong. Most of the hacks in the audience were duly cynical, but also horrified: that anyone could have thought it worth leaving a motherless child for a story is ghastly. And I would feel exactly the same if the child were left fatherless in the same circumstances. It isn't sexism. Just realism, that makes me blither about such sacrifices.

But I also understand that the civilised world is built on people making them. I know, too, that brave actions may be taken for all sorts of reasons. I've had friends who've gone to war zones I'd be

## Nigella Lawson



not to say that we are always right, or that we cannot learn, but that the long process of negotiation, self-questioning and rifling of our sense and conscience have to come from within.

This leads us to another problem. Ed Straw, who has written this Demos report, believes that compulsory counselling, or therapy sessions, should be part of the rehabilitation of deficient par-

ents. Unfortunately, there is no evidence anywhere as far as I know of compulsory therapy having any long-term benefit. The old joke about how many psychoanalysts does it take to change a lightbulb (one, but the lightbulb's really got to want to change) holds good: you do not make people better for telling them they are bad.

Anyway, most people whom the Demos lot would hold up

as parental demons probably do not even think of themselves as being negligent or culpable.

They are probably too lost in their own emotionally deficient past, still bleeding from old wounds, no doubt inflicted by their parents. Of course, in this context, it makes sense to try to help people to break

patterns, change their behaviour. The truth is, I do not think that any amount of people being nice to each other in soap operas (another Demos suggestion) or classes to give everyone helpful guidelines for positive parenting is going to do it.

However, embarrassment or irritation should not make one disparage the whole idea. If you could take away the two chief faults with the proposition — the presence of professionals and the element of compulsion — we might get somewhere, eventually. In this case, we are talking about self-help groups rather than lessons, and for many the idea must sound just as doltily Utopian. But cleverer men than Mr Straw have come to the conclusion that the unexamined life is not worth living. Helping people to look at the way they are, their families are, is surely a crucial part of such an examination. And really, what else, in the end, can matter to most of us as much?

THANK GOD for Jarvis Cocker's mother. Not that I can see what the fuss is about. Far from denting his credibility, the fact that his mother is standing for election as a Tory parish councillor comes as a welcome relief, a reminder of the natural order of things. There's something wrong somehow in all these business-minded new-generation rock stars with their hippy parents. As a Pulp spokesman said: "I think most people's parents are more right-wing than they are. It's par for the course." Who am I to argue with that?

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# Bad blood, smears and uncivil wars

## Michael Gove on a glimpse of the 'grand guignol' of Major's era

The waters seem calm. But the corpse is twitching. The family, after its fallings-out and betrayals, is ready to make up. And then, just as they thought their tormentor was history, a knife emerges from the deep to claim its victims.

This week, a year after they emerged from the wreckage of their worst defeat this century, the Tories must come to terms again with the consequences of their own *Fatal Attraction*.

The Tory lust for power, which led MPs into intrigue, faithlessness and revenge is pitilessly anatomised in Hywel Williams's new book, *Guilt Men*, serialised in *The Times* in the days ahead. It is, like the Hollywood movie, a study in betrayal. Tories may read it, and weep, but it contains a message they must mark if a public which felt betrayed is ever to take them back into its affections.

Mr Williams, John Redwood's closest aide until last summer, writes in a vivid and highly-coloured manner with regular flashes of dark humour. The effect is a Hieronymus Bosch picture in prose, a detailed canvas which absorbs even as the characters reel. No one is spared in his infernal torment of the Tory sinners.

The eponymous *Guilt Men* are members of John Major's Government, who stand accused of winning the 1992 election on a fraudulent prospectus and compounding their deceit with five years in office marked by intellectual vacuity and breaches of trust.

The story from 1992 has all of tragedy's inevitability, without any of its majesty. From forlorn campaigns in Europe through the muddled and anachronistic moral crusade at home, "back to basics", the Tory casualties mount. It is easy enough to list the individual reverses and defeats which marked the Major years, but the hatred the party inspired was the consequence of more than misgovernment. There was a tone and attitude which Conservative politicians assumed, publicly arrogant and privately malicious, that communicated itself to the voters with devastating consequences. The public arrogance, like a rash, was always on show. The private malice, the poison in the system, erupted into view during the two leadership elections of 1995 and 1997. It was no surprise they were advertised as exercises in "lancing the boil".

The viciousness of the Tories' uncivil wars was a consequence of John Major's unsteady leadership. His lack of guiding vision, inability to communicate any higher purpose for government, made government an end in itself. His administration fell prey to Cambridge Union syndrome — the pursuit of office for its own sake, a title to be won by intrigue in a less-than-great game with no purpose save the satisfaction of ambition. It is no surprise that John Major's ministers, as well as being a Cabinet of chums, were also a Cabinet of hacks.

In the absence of elevated language to inspire, the Tories found their language, and their thoughts, increasingly in the gutter. John Major famously excoriated the Cabinet "bastards" and boasted to intimates of his plans to "bring crucifix to the Right". Even after his departure, as Mr Williams charts today, the habits of betrayal and bad-mouthing had become second nature for Tories. But whereas John Major might restrict himself to barrack-room oaths, others preferred to blackened the characters of rivals. Instead of arguing about ideas, a sanitised exercise in the Major years, MPs discussed the personalities of colleagues with pretensions to lead. And as the venom accumulated, so the leadership became an ever more poisoned chalice.

This or that Cabinet minister would be accused of homosexuality, adultery, drunkenness or some other vice. The innuendo directed towards William Hague was simply another issuing of the same counterfeit currency which had been in circulation in the Tory party for years.

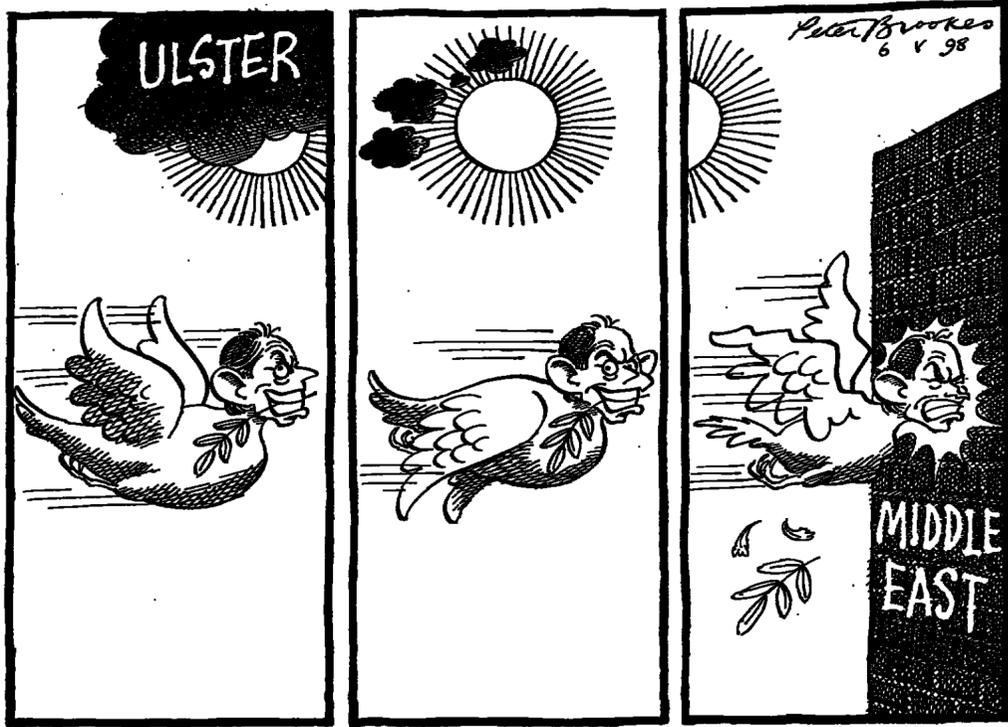
As the author of a biography of Michael Portillo I was passed bogus, and malicious, insinuations about the former Defence Secretary. There was no shortage of individuals, including parliamentary colleagues, who had heard of some indiscretion or other. All, when investigated, were nonsense.

But who, apart from the diligent biographer, has time to investigate these malicious tales? So much easier to believe that the absence of children, or closeness to another MP, is proof of sin. Such was the nature of Tory politics in the Major years that private lives, even if they were as much a product of the imagination as the play of the same name, became matters of public speculation. And poison was poured in ears the better to kill careers in the most foul, strange and unnatural manner.

Mr Williams may himself expect to see his own character attacked in the days ahead. But however tempting it may be for Tories to dismiss his words as the banished shriek of the dispossessed, they would be better advised to learn from his story. A party that asks for loyalty should learn that this antique virtue is a contract, not a fiat. Mr Williams served John Redwood loyally. He was dismissed only when his master joined Mr Hague's Shadow Cabinet. He had observed the procession of MPs who flitted with Mr Redwood and then abandoned him, so is well placed to make the point.

There are other lessons for the Tories. The clamour back to the high moral ground will require the jettisoning of old baggage. A party that wants to point itself as principled should desist from personal attacks. A party that wants to make itself heard, must first make itself liked, and that requires a tone very different from the hectoring voice too many old ministers still adopt.

### The effect of the book is a Bosch picture in prose



# We are all citizens now

### Elected mayors will put the local back into government — and about time too

Jack Straw have, if anything, proved even more centralist than the Tories. As for rate-capping, "crude and universal" is to be redefined as "sophisticated and targeted". Last month's Green Paper offered a return to the early Thatcher Government's "reserve powers" of 1984, which usurped the role of local democracy in curbing high-spending councils. Also retained is the Tory seizure of business rates, the biggest "nationalisation" in British history. Gordon Brown's control-freaks proved too much for the Local Government Minister, Hilary Armstrong. A White Paper is due next month and is expected to be a Treasury tract. The Treasury reads manifestos only with a gun at its head. Miss Armstrong is no gun.

This is all surely the answer to the Tories' prayer. Yet the party appears to feel now is too soon to champion the cause of local freedom from Whitehall. The centralism of the Thatcher-Major Governments is not yet a spent conviction. Besides, the Shadow Cabinet is still suffering post-traumatic shock. While it may murrain occasionally in Parliament, it dare not try its luck with the electorate. Like a rejected lover, the Tories are waiting for the other side to make the first gesture of reconciliation. If the votes go well tomorrow, well and good; if not, the party can always carry on sulking.

Within five years direct election for mayors will be the norm in towns and cities throughout the United Kingdom. Despite the recent failure of a Lords Bill permitting such elections outside London, ministers have promised a similar Bill of their own. A century of indirect local democracy in Britain, of rule by party machine in tandem with bureaucracy, will wane. Presidentialism will pervade local government, revitalising community leadership. Anyone who thinks mayors are merely about Ken Livingstone versus Jeffrey Archer has seen nothing yet.

Tomorrow will see the old politics still on dreary parade. National pundits will ponder national swings and intone their significance for national parties and national leaders. Nobody at Westminster gives a damn about local government any more. They will ask, does Labour's loss of a few councils mark the end of Tony Blair's honeymoon? Will a failure to recapture Croydon mean the end for William Hague? What will happen to that pollster's nightmare, the "no-overall-control" party? By the end of this week the dominant institution of local government in Britain may be the "hung council". The old politics says that hung councils, like hung parliaments, are unwippable, unworkable and therefore unthinkable. Yet somehow they decline to die.

The Tories ought to be having a field day. Opposition to any new government emerges first at the local level, as spending plans are cut and disillusion takes hold. This should apply the more this year with local grants ruthlessly suppressed. In addition, Labour has failed to honour its election pledge, to reverse the "over-centralisation" of public administration, reduce Whitehall meddling, return business rates to local control and end "crude and universal" rate-capping. Ministers such as David Blunkett, John Prescott and

their respective party bosses and faces blanch. At Westminster these men are considered out of the question, out of control, beyond the pale, ambitious, unsound, unpredictable and probably worse (in Lord Archer's case far worse). Without commenting on the individuals, I would regard these as ideal qualifications for London's mayor, and particularly the mayor as envisaged in the Government's recent White Paper.

This office is essentially one of influence rather than power. Its effectiveness will derive from force of personality rather than force of statute. The mayor must be immune to party discipline, a dynamiser rather than a bureaucrat, able to build a power base through contacts and the media rather than by loyalty to party organisation. As he rampages through Whitehall and Westminster, he must be able to wield the power vested in him by the votes of five million Londoners, not the votes of five members of a selection committee.

This new conduit of democratic participation is that of strong regional and local identity. To foreigners this is hardly novel. In France, Germany, Italy and Spain the route to the top in politics is primarily through local government. Presidents such as Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton won office not as party insiders or Washington fixers but as successful state governors. That has been inconceivable here at least since the days of the Chamberlains of Birmingham. Britain disregards the maxim of Tip O'Neill, the former Speaker of the House of Representatives, that "all politics is local". To the British Establishment, local government is still something to do with the Wars of the Roses.

The new mayorality may not be perfect, but it is the best we have. It will embody the spirit of resistance to big government. Around the world, mayors are the one political institution with the clout to offer a less ritualised critique of central power than that offered by official opposition. Mayors are the natural blood-and-guts antipode to the homogenised, computerised, whipped and spun politics of the modern nation state.

Mr Blair is to be congratulated for so boldly wheeling this horse through the gates of Troy. I wonder whether he knows what army lurks inside.

Mr Blair is to be congratulated for so boldly wheeling this horse through the gates of Troy. I wonder whether he knows what army lurks inside.



Simon Jenkins

# Spicy recipe

MARGARET COOK, the former wife of the Foreign Secretary, is to pen her memoirs. The Edinburgh doctor, whom Robin Cook spurned for his secretary last summer, has been paid an advance fee of almost £100,000 to "spill a lot of beans about the marriage" in a book provisionally titled *The Cook, the Wife and the Mistress*. The autobiography, which Weidenfeld & Nicolson, her publisher, expects to be out by the end of the summer, will help new embarrassment on the Foreign Secretary and reignite debate about the propriety of his behaviour.

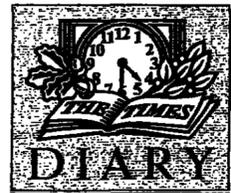
Dr Cook has remained quiet since then. But publishing sources now expect the "affairs and the lady who punctured the marriage to feature substantially" in the tome. Dr Cook — whose erstwhile husband last month married Gaynor Regan, his secretary, at a hasty private ceremony — will say she felt crushed by her husband's career, excluded from his life and threatened by his need for younger women to look up to him. She says she was suspicious of his behaviour at various stages during her marriage, but hoped that the Foreign Secretary's long working day would prevent him from



Spilling the beans: Cook

straying. Ion Trewin, managing director of Weidenfeld & Nicolson, thinks the experience will be cathartic for her: "Margaret wanted to put her side of the story down. It will all be there. Effectively this is 'the former wife of the Foreign Secretary reveals all'." Dr Cook said last night: "I hope I will finish the book as soon as possible."

THE surname of the latest Euro appointment is a little unfortunate. Jean-Claude Trichet, the



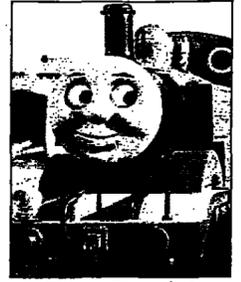
Interloper due, after some wheeler-dealing, to take over from Wim Duisenberg as President of the European Central Bank in four years' time, sounds the same as tricher, which is French for "to cheat".

### Colour blind

THE new head of the Countryside Alliance, opposed to rural despoilation, built a factory on a greenfield site 18 months ago, Edward Duke, whose position will be rubber-stamped later this month, has just given up his position as chief executive of Beauford plc. But before he moved on he built a £2 million factory in Craigavon, Northern Ireland, on fields that were once home to a herd of cows. Victor Gordon, of the *Craigavon Echo*, said: "The factory was built

on farming land, a greenfield site. There is a lot of bad feeling around here about these kinds of developments." Duke denies the site was green, more a dirty brown: "Greenfield is a technical term. The site is greenfield in the business sense of the word, not in the Countryside Alliance sense."

THOMAS the Tank Engine is innocent. Firemen spent the weekend dousing a blaze which spread across two square miles of the Earl of Seafield's estate. The finger of blame was pointed at Strathspay Steam Railway, specialists in Thomas the Tank Engine week-



Thomas fire starter?

ends; a spark from one of the engines started the trackside fire. "It wasn't Thomas," says a lump of coal. "He was in his shed."

### Broad church

WANTED: a new aide for George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury. Must have sound judgment and enthusiastic commitment. Belief in God not required. Thus reads a job description from the Church of England. "There is no need for applicants to be baptised," says a large cassock in the archbishop's office. Mind you, as the position is for a spin-doctor, a godless atheist would be perfect.

GEORGE HOWARTH, the Home Office Minister, had a rough time yesterday when he addressed parliament at the Grosvenor House. He was jeered after failing to announce expected changes to the law to allow longer opening hours. I should think Howarth needed a stiff one.

### Dress code

THE growing diversity of popular music is engendering strange social encounters. At a party for record industry types, Baby Spice knocked into Father Anthony



Baby Spice: party blooper

Such a monk and Headmaster of Downside, a leading Roman Catholic public school. She was there for her undoubted talents as a chanteuse, he for his involvement in two successful albums of Gregorian chant. The youngest member of the Spice Girls greeted Such with a slap on the back and then said: "I didn't know we were supposed to put on fancy dress."

EDWARD WELSH

## Alan Coren



### Water, water, everywhere, nor any drop to squirt

Now that the Great Drought is at long last officially over and each and every one of us has finished clearing away the detritus of our various propitiatory rites — the high altars defestooned, the corn-dollies back in their baskets, the scrolls of the law returned to their arks, the morris-staves clipped in their racks, the prayer mats rolled up and stacked, the goats' blood sluiced from path and patio, the bells, books and candles laid lovingly away, and Stonehenge back to normal office hours — it is time for the nation to look to its hoses.

Because, if you cast your minds back across the desiccated years, you will recall that he was always a tricky customer, your Johnny hose, and things, I promise, will only have got trickier with the long lack of use. Now, for example, is the time to cut off the split ends of dried-out hoses so that they fit snugly on to the garden tap; or would, if the jubilee clip designed to secure them had not rusted solid during the interim, thanks to the drip that was coming out of the tap before the pipe burst during the cold snap of 1996. Wisely, at the time, you turned the service off at the mains, resolved to replace it after the drought was over, though unwisely forgetting all about it until yesterday, when, turned on again, a horizontal jet filled your wellingtons to the knee.

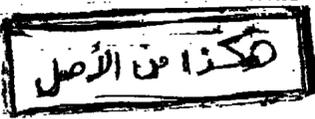
Never mind: for the average DIY enthusiast, it is not too difficult to remove the faulty upstand pipe and tap, stanch the blood with a towel, pop down for a few simple stitches and a tetanus shot, telephone a plumber, and thus be ready, within less than a week, to secure to the new tap your neaty cut hose. Which, as the result of being neatly cut, will now be some nine inches too short to reach the one bed that requires regular watering. No matter, any nurseryman or ironmonger will be able to supply you with an extra length of hose and a connector with which you can effortlessly fall to join the new bit to the old, since the old is too thick to fit into the connector. The best remedy is to buy an entirely new hose of the required length: there is no other certain method of finding out that the new tap the plumber has just soldered onto the new upstand pipe is itself 2mm wider than the hose. This problem can be solved by opening your kitchen window and attaching the hose to your narrower kitchen tap: do bear in mind, though, that this means that the new hose will now be some nine inches too short to reach the one bed that requires constant watering.

While you're at the nursery/ironmonger, be sure to buy a new sprinkler to replace the one which has, not surprisingly, disappeared during the Great Drought. There are two main varieties of sprinkler on the market, the one that fails to spin round and the one that fails to sweep back and forth. Personally, I prefer the latter: at least you get half the garden sodden and know which side the shrubs are going to rot. The other variety sets up little oases at random, and it is all too easy, when strolling across a recently irrigated stretch, to find oneself sinking up to the shin in a little local quicksand.

While you are still at the shop, here is a handy tip. In the old days before the Great Drought, most gardeners promised themselves that one day they would jettison their old hose-reel, which was freestanding and tended to pursue them across the garden during reeling, and buy a wall-mounted reel. They may feel that day has now come, especially as it would be a way of celebrating the end of aridity; of quite literally, splashing out. The handy tip is not to do it. This is because there is no masonry screw so secure as to hold a wall-mounted reel in permanent place: the fifth time you wind it, it will dismount and pursue you across the garden. If it is the really expensive kind, designed to reel in at the touch of the button the average DIY enthusiast has connected to the mains, it will electrocute you first.

And that I'm afraid is just about all the useful advice I can give you about garden hoses. I do, however, have one interesting statistic to offer: Hozelock, the nation's premier supplier, tells me that some seven million homes use hoses, at an average length of 55 metres. This lots up to 240,000 miles, enough to reach to the Moon. Or, to be precise, to within nine inches of it.

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY MAY 6 1998  
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Forthcoming marriages

Mr M. Andrew and Miss M.J. Soane. The engagement is announced between Martin, son of Mr and Mrs I.B. Andrew, of Grange-over-lands, Cumbria, and Michelle, daughter of Mr and Mrs D.M. Soane, of Pwllheli, Gwynedd.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE May 5: The Rt Hon Tony Blair MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of the Queen this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Trustee, this evening chaired a Meeting of the Trustees of the Prince Philip Trust Fund for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and afterwards held a Dinner at Windsor Castle.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as honorary life member, Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers, will present the Prince Philip Award for 1997 and Certificates of Merit for Research and Development in the Field of Dairy Farming, at Buckingham Palace, at 10.00; and as Grand Master and First Principal Knight, will attend a luncheon for the Order of the British Empire at the Farmers' Club, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1, at 12.30.

Birthdays today

Sir John Arnold, former President of the Family Division, 83; the Marquess of Bath, 66; General Sir Jeremy Bamber, 59; Mr Tony Blair, Prime Minister, 45; the Earl of Caledon, 43; Mr Roy Cooke, former director, Coventry School Foundation, 68; Professor Rosemary Cramp, archaeologist, 69; Miss Carol Ellis, QC, consulting editor, The Law Reports, 69; Sir Frank Ereaut, former Bailiff of Jersey, 70; Mr John Taylor, KCVO, former chief executive, Stock Exchange, 71; Mr J.R. Henderson, former Lord-Lieutenant of Berkshire, 78; the Earl of Leicester, 62; Vice-Admiral Sir Hugh Marzell, 86; Mrs Tracy Mulligan, fashion designer, Lord Pender, 65; Miss Eleanor Platt, QC, 60; Mr Alan Ross, author, 76; Mr John S. Sadler, former chairman, Pearl Group, 68; Mr Graeme Soumess, football manager, 45; the Right Rev John Taylor, KCVO, former Bishop of St Albans, 69.

Maureen Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava

A private funeral service and burial for Maureen, Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, who died on Sunday, May 3, will be held at Clondeboy, Northern Ireland, on Thursday, May 7.

Captain C.B.H. Wake-Walker, RN

There will be a memorial service for Christopher Wake-Walker at St Mary's Church, East Bergholt, Suffolk, on Tuesday, May 26, at 4pm.



Rebekah Gilbertson, who produced the book, Handlines, after seeing landmine victims from Mozambique

Helping hands for landmine victims

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE ballerina Darcy Bussell, the musician Lord Melnick and the footballer Ryan Giggs are among 45 stars who have each tried to imagine life without a hand or a foot. Lending their support to the worldwide campaign against landmines, they have submitted images of their soles or palms for a book published yesterday by the Red Cross for the thousands of victims whose bodies and minds have been maimed by mines.



A dramatic hand from the artist Marc Quinn and a genuine case of athlete's foot from Sally Gunnell

portraits not of victims but of people... It was not my aim to portray them as objects of pity. Rather, I wanted them to be seen for the deep strength and dignity that showed in their faces... These faces told me that they were victims not only of landmines but also of ambitious politicians and greedy generals... The Red Cross estimates that there are 100 million mines waiting to explode as far afield as Afghanistan and Angola: in some countries, 30 per cent of all casualties are women and children. In the past ten years, the Red Cross has treated more than 30,000 mine victims.

Premium Bonds

The following Premium Bond prize-winners were announced yesterday: £100,000: 7085 34822, winner has a holding of £10,139 and comes from Warwickshire; 3505 50892, £10,000, Cheshire; 4811 17010, £20,000, Nottinghamshire; 4527 32033, £10,650, Kent; 61DN 97453 £15,800, South Yorkshire; 63MP 10149, £5,100, Cumbria; £50,000: 672N 21707, £20,000, Essex; 66SK 14888, £19,900, West Midlands; 41AS 22649, £30,000, Wiltshire; 461P 13415, £20,000, Somerset; 53RN 30334, £20,000, Leicestershire; 22EP 01929, £18,000; Dorset; 32BN 54267, £19,400, Leicestershire; 32CF 17615, £10,001, Norfolk; 71LN 59549, £14,000, Channel Islands; 75N 44109, £10,100, Surrey; 55B 62574, £7,000, Essex; 7485 50002, £5,882, £19,970, Cheshire; 46CW 84747, £9,853, Surrey; 452P 23726, £5,100, Essex.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Maximilien de Robespierre, French Revolution leader, Arras, 1758; Sigmund Freud, psychoanalyst, Freiberg (Prinz, Czechoslovakia), 1856; Stanley Kubrick, American, Egyptian, and British filmmaker, pioneer in the use of color film, London, 1901; King Edward VII, reigned 1901-10.

Deaths

BUCKINGHAM PALACE, 1910: Maurice Maeterlinck, poet and dramatist, Nobel laureate 1911, Nice, 1949; Maria Montessori, educator, Nordvijk, The Netherlands, 1952.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS: On May 1st, in the Portland Hospital, to a daughter, Isabella Mary, sister of the late Isabella, a daughter for Mattie.

DEATHS: On May 1st, in the Portland Hospital, to a daughter, Isabella, a daughter for Mattie.

DEATHS: On May 1st, in the Portland Hospital, to a daughter, Isabella, a daughter for Mattie.

TICKETS FOR SALE: ALL TICKETS, CHEAT, instead, All... TICKETS FOR SALE: ALL TICKETS, CHEAT, instead, All...

UK HOLIDAYS: SPECIAL OFFER: 451 2074 Fax: 0121 459 4422

UK HOLIDAYS: SPECIAL OFFER: 451 2074 Fax: 0121 459 4422

OBITUARIES

DR DENIS LEIGH

Dr Denis Leigh, consultant psychiatrist at the Maudsley and Bethlem Hospitals, 1949-80, and Secretary-General of the World Psychiatric Association, 1966-78, died on April 20 aged 82. He was born in Manchester on October 11, 1915.

Denis Leigh was one of the leading psychiatrists and teachers of post-graduate students of his generation. There was, however, a more controversial side to his career since, when Secretary-General of the World Psychiatric Association, he rigorously opposed the expulsion of the Soviet Union from that body. This was at a time when the Moscow authorities thought nothing of using psychiatric treatment as an instrument of penal policy - and Leigh's attitude, perhaps predictably, came in for some outspoken newspaper criticism. A great champion of the need for dialogue, he never, however, doubted that he had been correct in the line he took - and saw recent history as having to some extent vindicated him against his critics.

Archibald Denis Leigh was the son of a Lancashire cotton mill manager. The mill closed in the Depression of the 1930s but his father then turned to journalism, becoming assistant editor of Picture Post. The young Leigh was educated at Hulme Grammar School and graduated in medicine from Manchester University with first-class honours a few months before the start of the Second World War. After medical school he became house surgeon to Geoffrey Jefferson, the leading neurosurgeon of that time.

Leigh spent the Second World War in the Army. Initially he served as a regimental medical officer but he was soon posted to the Oxford head injury centre. At the centre he made the first detailed study of loss of smell after head injuries, and his work on this is still quoted. He served in India and in a mobile neurosurgical unit close to the front line during the Burma campaign. By the end of the war he was a lieutenant-colonel and adviser in neurology to the Eastern Army, India.

After demobilisation he be-



came assistant to the neurological department of the London Hospital, working with Lord Brain and George Riddoch. However, his ambitions lay in psychiatry, not neurology, and he moved to the Maudsley Hospital, training with Erich Gutman and C. P. Blacker and spending a year at the Harvard Medical School.

Returning to London in 1949, he was appointed consultant at the Maudsley and Bethlem Hospitals. He developed a strong reputation as a clinical psychiatrist who would spare no effort on his patients' behalf. As a young consultant, he also spent part of his time in the neuropathology department, working with Professor Alfred Meyer. During this period, he described an unusual condition in the brain of a six-month-old child. This disease (which at the time was invariably fatal) became known as "Leigh's disease". It has now

been recognised as one of the mitochondrial disorders, a subject of intense research worldwide.

Denis Leigh was a consultant psychiatrist to the British Army and the first psychiatrist to serve on the Parole Board. In 1959 the Royal Commission on Capital Punishment recommended that an independent psychiatrist be appointed to give an opinion available to both prosecution and defence in murder trials. It fell to Leigh in this capacity to examine many of the more notorious murderers of the late 1950s and early 1960s.

He appeared as an expert witness in a number of leading criminal trials. One of these was the 1959 Podola case. Guenther Podola was accused of murdering a policeman. In his defence, as well as accusing the police of having beaten him up, he claimed that he was affected by loss of memory. Leigh gave evidence that his claimed amnesia was

feigned. Podola was convicted and, despite having stoutly maintained his innocence throughout his trial, admitted his guilt before he was hanged.

Leigh was also an expert witness for the Crown in the Lady Chatterley's Lover case, effectively lost by the manifest sexism and snobbery ("Is this a book you would wish your wife or servant to read?") of the prosecuting counsel, Mervyn Griffith-Jones. To balance that, however, in the 1970s Leigh found himself on the liberal side of the argument in giving evidence against the British Government before the European Court of Human Rights in the case (first exposed by The Sunday Times) of the alleged mistreatment of IRA prisoners by special investigators in Northern Ireland.

Fundamentally, however, Leigh's loyalties were to the Establishment. For many years he was involved in the

selection of candidates for M15 and M16. He treated several important double agents who defected from the Soviet Union and even advised on the treatment of a Red Army general in a Russian hospital. In 1966 Leigh was appointed Secretary-General of the World Psychiatric Association. In this post, despite the opposition provoked by his views on keeping a dialogue going with the Soviet Union, it was entirely typical of his forthright style to pursue what he thought was right, however unpopular.

He wrote a great deal, contributing to numerous books and articles and founding and editing the Journal of Psychosomatic Research. Psychosomatic disorders remained one of his main interests throughout his career. He wrote three books: The Historical Developments of British Psychiatry (1961), Bronchial Asthma with E. Marley (1967) and A Concise Encyclopaedia of Psychiatry with C. M. B. Pare and J. Marks (1967), as well as translating from the French Psychosomatic Methods of Fairless Chilibrikh (1959). He was elected to a substantial number of overseas medical societies and was president of the Section of Psychiatry at the Royal Society of Medicine.

After retirement, he continued teaching at the request of his former colleagues and resumed his neuropathological interests. He will probably be best remembered for his work as a teacher, particularly by his many overseas post-graduate students. He had a distinctive teaching style, delivered with his Mancunian accent and humour, and drawing heavily on his extensive experience of clinical psychiatry. He also continued to give expert advice in personal injury claims before the civil courts.

Apart from his professional life he was an intensely private person who valued the seclusion of his home in the country and the company of his wife and family. In his last years he was able to devote more time to his many hobbies, including fly fishing, shooting, gardening and collecting old books.

He died at home after a long illness. He is survived by his wife Pamela, whom he married in 1941, and by two sons and three daughters.

GEORGE FRASER

George Fraser, MBE, Britain's longest-serving journalist, died in Aberdeen on April 24 aged 102. He was born on November 10, 1895.



THE Aberdeen Press and Journal, with 11 editions, a circulation of well over 100,000, and covering an area larger than Austria, is something of a phenomenon among British newspapers. Until January it carried a weekly column written by a man who was himself a phenomenon.

George Fraser first started working for what was then the Daily Journal in Aberdeen in 1917. Except for a two-year break when he went south to work on the Liverpool Daily Post, he remained a journalist in Aberdeen - as sub-editor, writer, Editor of the Aberdeen Evening Express, and finally columnist for the P & J - for 80 years.

His column, One Man's Week, had been a regular feature since the late 1950s, and only illness forced him to give it up at the age of 102. It was still attracting the largest regular postbag on the paper, dealing as it did with the daily routines of life and striking a familiar chord with its readers in a way that any regular columnist might envy.

Yet it never intruded on what Fraser would have regarded as the private aspects of personal life. He was able quite recently to spin 400 words out of a subject as mundane as dropping a fork on the floor. But when his beloved wife Peggy died in 1995 after 67 years of married life, he never mentioned it in print. His proudest moment came in September that year when he was invited, aged 99, for an exclusive date with a lady only slightly younger than he was - Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. She professed herself one of his regular readers, and asked him to have tea and cakes with her at her royal Deeside residence, Birkhall. The two nonagenarians spent a pleasant half-hour together chatting "about anything and everything", including memories of childhood, and the illness of Edward VII which had delayed the Coronation in 1901 and meant that Fraser's school picnic was held up.

In 1996 he was given an honorary degree by Aberdeen

University and, since he was by that stage housebound, it was presented to him in his own home by the Principal, Professor Duncan Rice. It was the first time in the university's history that a such a ceremony had been conducted outside the limits of the campus. George Fraser was born the youngest son of a railway stationmaster. One of five children, he was educated at Inverurie Academy. Graduating from Aberdeen University in 1917, his first plan was to be a teacher. However, a chance meeting with a friend on the Daily Journal led him to apply for a vacant job as a sub-editor. The Editor, Sir William Maxwell, who first interviewed him, assured him (propaganda) that journalists generally lived to a ripe old age.

Fraser began his career as a sub-editor at 25 shillings a week, checking copy and drawing up pages, handling, in those early days, the battle news from France, composing headlines for the Armistice, and writing his own column. Although he applied three times to join the Army, he was rejected on health grounds - he had had a weak heart since childhood.

A brief foray south took him to the Liverpool Daily Post, but it was love that drew him back. He had fallen for Peggy, a young cashier on the Aberdeen newspaper, but there was a rival for her hand, Leslie Mitchell, a reporter on the Journal, who wooed her by sending her a five-page poem. It must have been more than just a piece of doggerel, for Mitchell later achieved fame as a poet and novelist - under the pen-name of Lewis Grassic

Gibbon. But Peggy, who never revealed the contents of the poem, chose Fraser instead, and they married in 1925. A year later, he moved to the Aberdeen Evening Express, becoming its Editor in 1945. A Liberal all his life, Fraser avoided any hint of party bias, and held strong views about the independence of the press. A measured, canny individual, he chose his words carefully, both in the column he resumed on the Press and Journal in the 1950s and in private conversation. He had a nice line in dry humour, and enjoyed showing friends an old photograph of his classmates from Inverurie Academy. He would go through them one by one, recounting their experiences, then adding "But of course, he's dead now." A keen golfer, he gave up, he said, because his partners kept on dying before him. He kept up his column, he claimed, because nobody had ever asked him to stop. But in truth it was loved by many readers, and they responded by writing to Fraser as to a friend and confidant, sending him cards on his birthday, although he never mentioned the date himself.

He rarely wrote about anything profound, but he did reflect day-to-day life as he experienced it, and that, for his many followers, was enough. When, in 1996, he was appointed MBE, the Scottish Office citation read: "The clarity of his brilliant mind is reflected in the prose which he still turns out. His journalism is a shining example to any aspiring writer today."

He finally gave up the column when his health began to fail in January this year. He is survived by his only son.

SIR STANLEY KRUSIN

Sir Stanley Krusin, CB, Second Parliamentary Counsel, 1970-73, died on April 28 aged 89. He was born on June 8, 1908.

IN 1940 Stanley Krusin, then a barrister of eight years' standing and joint author of a book about the first crop of wartime legislation, joined the RAF with a direct entry commis-

sion. At that time, radar sightings of enemy aircraft were phoned in by WAAFs to a central "filter room", each report being marked by a tidily-wink positioned on a large horizontal map of the United Kingdom. The team of sergeants who were supposed to read the raiders' movements and intentions from this rather sketchy informa-

tion proved unequal to the task and it became imperative to replace them with people used to making rapid analyses and predictions.

It was decided that barristers and stockbrokers were the most likely to fit the bill, and a team comprising a dozen of each was assembled, of whom Krusin was one. By the end of the war he had reached the

rank of wing commander, having spent the last four years on the Air Staff in Whitehall.

Stanley Marks Krusin was educated at St Paul's School and went to Balliol, where he read Mods and Greats and won the Ireland, Craven and Paravini scholarships. He joined the Middle Temple, was called to

the Bar in 1932 and was a pupil first of Arthur Cole and then of J. H. Stamp. From 1933 to 1940 he was a member of the Chancery chambers of the great conveyancer Hubert Roper, where he developed his notable talent of painstaking analysis and crystal-clear exposition.

On leaving the RAF he was offered a job with the British Tabulating Machine Company (which was then embarking on the manufacture of computers) and served as its deputy secretary for two years. But the work did not call for any serious intellectual effort and his lively and forthright wife Frances, whom he had married in 1937, warned him that his intellectual faculties would deteriorate if he did not exercise them. He therefore contacted Noel Hutton, who had been a member of Stamp's chambers when Krusin was a pupil there but had later joined the Parliamentary Counsel Office as a legislative draftsman. In 1947 that office was on the lookout for recruits to assist with the Labour Government's massive programme of legislation, and Krusin joined at the end of that year, being "established" after only four months' trial.

Within two years he was promoted to senior assistant parliamentary counsel, from which comparatively junior grade he was elevated in 1953 to full Counsel, a signal mark



of confidence in his ability. From then on he had full responsibility for Bills allotted to him, among the first of which was the Town and Country Planning Act 1954, which by the time it reached the statute book was 109 pages long. His next major task was the 90-page Copyright Act 1956, in which his analytical gifts en-

abled him to deal extremely clearly, if not always very concisely, with the ramifications (both technical and international) of a field then still governed by an outdated Act passed in 1911.

This was followed by Acts restructuring the electricity and gas industries and by the 123-page Opencast Coal Act 1958, which necessitated an

almost surgical dissection of all the possible rights in and over land that might be interfered with in the course of opencast mining. He was also responsible for the ill-fated Industrial Relations Act 1971, the 185 pages of which at least earned him the appreciation and admiration of Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Over the years Krusin drafted a large number of Independence Acts, including those for Barbados, Botswana, Guyana, Lesotho, Malawi, Gambia, Zambia, Malta, Uganda and Jamaica. It was a disagreement between the Secretary of State and the Attorney-General over one of these Bills that prompted the lines:

Duncan Sandys  
Likes the Bill as it stands  
Sir John Hobson  
Wants it with knobs on.

Krusin was appointed CB in 1965 and was Second Parliamentary Counsel from 1970 until his retirement in 1973, when he was knighted. In his retirement he worked for several years for the Law Commission, both in an advisory capacity and as a draftsman. His wife Frances died in 1972, and in 1976 he married his second wife, Sybil, who had become a friend of Frances during her last illness. Sybil herself died in 1988, after which, despite defective eyesight, he lived resolutely on his own. He is survived by a son and a daughter of his first marriage.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS...  
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The Reinstatement...  
Notice is hereby given that...

THE GUARDS' CHAPEL

To-day is the hundredth anniversary of the opening of the Guards' Chapel, more correctly called the Royal Military Chapel, Wellington Barracks. Familiar to the public largely through an occasional fashionable wedding, it deserves to be known for other reasons, and not least for the persistence of the clergyman who worried the authorities into continuing service today by the attendance of the KING and QUEEN and QUEEN MARY, and it falls by coincidence on a day that will always be most happily connected in the public mind with KING GEORGE V. To the casual passer-by, gazing through the somewhat forbidding looking railings which separate the red coat from the civilian, life in barracks seems so self-contained as to justify the description "collegiate". Yet the chapel, which is often the final but should be the first sign of communal life, was not secured without a struggle. The man to whom credit for its initiation chiefly belongs is the REVEREND WILLIAM DAKINS, principal Chaplain of the Brigade of Guards for many years. Although FREDERICK, DUKE OF YORK, "the soldiers' friend", did much for the comfort of the Guards, and the long-drawn-out struggle with France did much to enhance

ON THIS DAY

May 6, 1938

The original Guards' Chapel survived the Blitz but fell victim to a flying bomb which killed 121 worshippers. The report in The Times read: "The morning service had just begun in a southern England church when a flying bomb crashed through the roof demolishing the building except where the altar stood undamaged". Their importance in the eyes of the public, very little proper provision was made for their services. During the early years of the 19th century MR. DAKINS and his faithful flock worshipped in the Banqueting Hall at Whitehall, where the acoustics were extremely bad. When the scheme for the Wellington Barracks was going forward MR. DAKINS memorialized, as the contemporary phrase went, the proper authorities about the necessity for a chapel there. His efforts had the desired effect, and a small memorial, he dedicated to his memory to-day. Many distinguished soldiers attended the opening service in 1838, but it is somewhat remarkable that the most distinguished was observed taking his customary exercise in the Park. There was also some disappointment that QUEEN VICTORIA was not present, though in the early days of her reign the connexion between the Guards and Royalty was maintained more by the Cambridge branch of the Royal Family than by the SOVEREIGN herself. It is unfortunate that the name of the chaplain, SIR NEVILLE WILKINSON, the great authority on the Chapel's history, considers that he was most probably PHILIP HARDWICK, the designer of the magnificent arch at Euston. It was only natural that the simplicity of the building inside should have clashed with the ornate sensibilities of the Victorians. Whatever the imperfections of its architecture, and whatever the struggles which surrounded its birth, the Guards' Chapel remains the repository of a long tradition of service and sacrifice. The colours hanging there are a reminder of the triumphs of the Army, while the many memorials within its walls provide an interesting sidelight on our history, recalling the names of Such as loved their land and all things good And, best beloved of best men, liberty.

NEWS

Sterling falls as Blair hails deal

Exporters breathed a sigh of relief as the pound fell amid speculation that German interest rates will rise to smoothe the launch of the euro.

Sterling had been expected to rise after the "fudge" over who should head the new European Central Bank, and the markets' calm response was privately welcomed by ministers as Tony Blair defended last weekend's deal to MPs.

Redwood 'attacked Hague as leader'

John Redwood responded to the election of William Hague as leader with the gibe that Tory MPs had chosen the worst of the candidates on offer.

Israel deadline

Israel was given less than a week to agree on troop withdrawals from the West Bank, at the end of two days of talks in London which failed to achieve a breakthrough.

Women's summit

A summit of European Ministers for Women was launched in Northern Ireland — a venue chosen because of its reputation for chauvinism.

Peace flight

Tony Blair and John Major fly to Belfast today for a unique joint appearance designed to rally support for the Good Friday peace agreement.

Stolen Picasso

A celebrated cat burglar who preyed on the film stars Sophia Loren and Elizabeth Taylor was caught by undercover police trying to sell a stolen Picasso, it was alleged.

Royal murder plot

An IRA informer, who has admitted lying about three murders, told a court that he had been sent on a terrorist mission to kill the Prince and Princess of Wales and to bomb beaches.

Thalidomide role

Thalidomide, the world's most notorious drug, could make a comeback after reports that an American biotech company had destroyed cancer in mice.

Londoners can vote with a smile

The Government is so concerned about voter apathy towards tomorrow's London referendum that it has instructed returning officers to count as valid as many ballot papers as possible, including ones marked with smiley faces and games of noughts and crosses.

Cover-up demand

The Advertising Standards Authority has criticised an apparent boom in the use of naked women to sell products.

Inspection doubts

Unexpected secondary schools consistently achieved higher results than assessed schools during the first four years of the £150 million-a-year inspection system.

Well-fed hostages

The gravest danger that David Mitchell and his family faced during their 17 days of captivity in Yemen was that they would be overfed.

Sailors sacrificed

The commander of the Australian Navy's largest ship took the decision to save the rest of his crew by sealing four sailors in the blazing engine room after rescuers were beaten back.

Playing the field

Almost every player in America's premier basketball league, has fathered a child out of wedlock — with the most wayward siring as many as seven with six different women.

Vatican murders

The Vatican said that Colonel Alois Estermann, the newly appointed commander of the Swiss Guard, and his Venezuelan wife had been murdered by a disgruntled subordinate.



Alan Shearer, the England and Newcastle striker who faces a disciplinary charge, with disabled children at St James' Park. Page 44

BUSINESS

Maxwell Coopers & Lybrand, auditor to Robert Maxwell companies, had several complaints filed against it by the accountancy watchdogs.

Christie's sale: Francois Pinault, the French retailer, snapped up 29 per cent of the auction house.

Losers: Co-operative Retail Services, which owns Co-op supermarkets, department stores and funeral parlours, doubled its losses in the year to the end of January.

Markets: The FTSE 100 index fell 23.8 points to close at 5986.5. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 105.3 to 104.5 after a fall from \$1.6655 to \$1.6590 and from DM2.9644 to DM2.9412.

SPORT

Football: Alan Shearer, the England captain, is set to be charged by the Football Association after an incident with Neil Lennon, the Leicester midfielder player.

Cricket: Alec Stewart was appointed captain of England for this summer's matches against South Africa and Sri Lanka in succession to Michael Atherton.

Rugby union: The Rugby Football Union is to look into allegations of hitting which arose after the Allied Dunbar Premiership match between Newcastle and Leicester.

Snooker: John Higgins, the new world champion, believes that he has earned his success by following the example of Stephen Hendry, a former practice partner.

ARTS

Hot tickets: From Oklahoma! at the National to The X-Files movie and Simon Rattle's farewell to Birmingham, Times critics select the pick of the summer events nationwide.

More than books: Would John Ruskin have praised the library Lancaster University has spent five years building? Yes and no, says Marcus Binney.

Yes, Minister: The writer Roger Scruton had an idea for an opera, and went ahead and wrote it. And The Minister isn't at all bad, says Hilary Finch.

Liturgical fruit: Making its British debut, the Small Theatre of Vilnius opens the Brighton Festival with its award-winning production of The Cherry Orchard.

FEATURES

Dirty war: After its trouncing last May, the Conservative Party thought it had reached rock-bottom. But worse was to come with the battle to succeed John Major.

Childish: "I am as wet as the next Nineties mother — as child-centred or as dummy-whipped, depending on your point of view."

Honest courage: Ruth Picardie wrote with honesty about dying. Her husband, Matt Seaton, raising their twins, Lola and Joe, is confronting his wife's early death with similar candour.

Exclusive view: Would-be buyers are looking around a £20 million London property before a decision has been taken to sell. And its owner, the Crown Estate, has big plans.

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

FILMS: Geoff Brown sees Jeremy Irons and Dominique Swain in the new Lolita.

BOOKS: Anita Desai is almost seduced by V.S. Naipaul's prose; Bel Mooney looks into pornography.

RADIO

Preview: Johnny Vaughan interviews American sitcom stars. The One Where Johnny Makes Friends (Channel 4, 9pm). Preview: Two views of Las Vegas.

OPINION

End of part one

Tony Blair has played his part in the Middle East peace process. Madeleine Albright now has the task of extracting assurances required to close the deal.

Capital vote

There is the chance that London will serve as a trail-blazer for a new form of local government that will be adopted elsewhere. The city should become the centre of constitutional experimentation.

Honourable Order

The Japanese publisher who has bought the Department of Trade and Industry's papers is hoisting Anglophilia up another rung. Cash for 200-year-old questions looks a poor bargain.

SIMON JENKINS

Barring accidents, tomorrow will see a new constitutional dawn over Britain. We shall, of course, deny it. The British do not believe in dawn, and certainly not in constitutions.

MICHAEL GOVE

The story from 1992 has all of tragedy's inevitability without any of its majesty. From forlorn campaigns in Europe through the muddled and anachronistic moral crusade at home the Tory casualties mount up.

ALAN COREN

If you cast your minds back across the desiccated years, you will recall that he was always a tricky customer, your Johnny howe.

PETER RIDDELL

However clumsy President Chirac's behaviour, the underlying credibility of the bank has not been undermined.

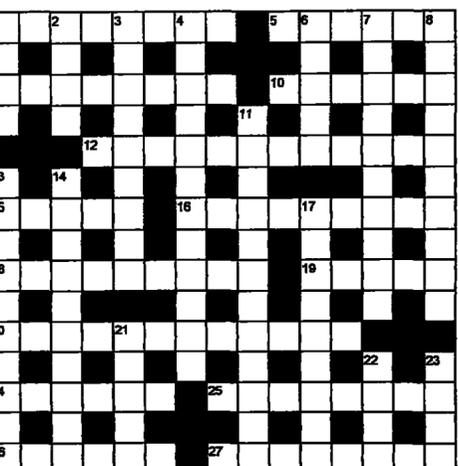
OBITUARY

Denis Leigh, psychiatrist, George Fraser, Britain's oldest journalist, Sir Stanley Krusin, lawyer.

LETTERS

European Bank: fat cat lawyers; Sudan famine; sex and youth hunting; roads; sharing Communism; Diana fountain.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,784



- ACROSS: 1 Contest with a lot of tension between the teams (3,2,3). 5 Aboard ship, want casual trousers (6). 9 Supporting new crime-cutting department (8). 10 What's the answer when petrol goes round one side of can repeatedly? (6). 12 Could a tender faith make one this? (5-7). 15 Hanging displays not unknown (5). 16 Where the Spanish Armada assembled usually (2,3,4). 18 King soon ensnares willing maiden (9). 19 Leaflet Dad found outside pub (5). 20 High-street establishment where sewers get special attention (12). 24 Girl reverse of unpleasant character — a divine manifestation (6).

Word search puzzle with a grid and a list of words to find: HARRIS SANDWICH, BOUNDARY ANNING, U A N H V M H, N B K IMPERIAL, STOOPING Y V A, E U N H E A N, COTTAGE RIDDLED, O E B F N R E, N A E I N R O E R, ROCKYARD E N L, H A A G E R K I, A I I G N S E L G A V, N N C I S R I, DOGBERRY TODAY.

FORECAST

General: Northern Ireland will start wet but the heavy rain will clear to leave sunny spells and blustery showers. Much of Scotland will start dry but rain, some heavy, will spread across England and Wales...

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing weather conditions around Britain yesterday. Columns include location, sun, rain, cloud, drizzle, snow, sleet, snow, sleet, sun, rain, cloud, drizzle, snow, sleet, sun, rain, cloud, drizzle, snow, sleet.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Table showing highest and lowest temperatures in various locations. Columns include location, high, low.

FORECAST

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England, NE England: overcast and showers. Much of Scotland will start dry but rain, some heavy, will spread across England and Wales...

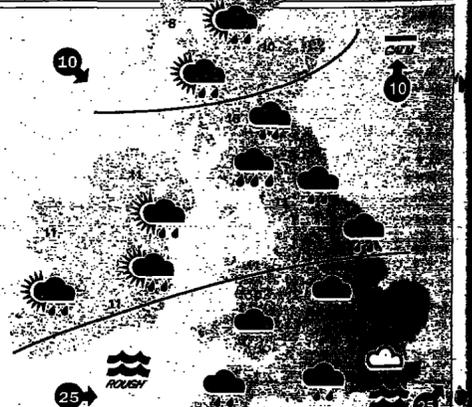
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing weather conditions around Britain yesterday. Columns include location, sun, rain, cloud, drizzle, snow, sleet, snow, sleet, sun, rain, cloud, drizzle, snow, sleet.

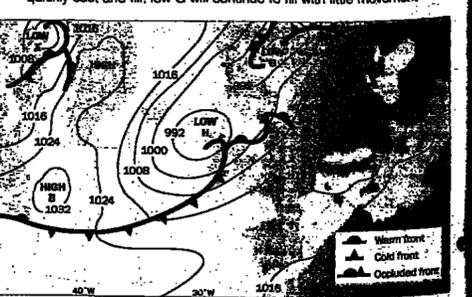
HIGHEST & LOWEST

Table showing highest and lowest temperatures in various locations. Columns include location, high, low.

NOON TODAY



CHANGES TO CHART BELOW FROM NOON: HIGH B WILL DECLINE A LITTLE; LOW H WILL MOVE QUICKLY EAST AND FILL; LOW G WILL CONTINUE TO FILL WITH LITTLE MOVEMENT



HIGH TODAY

Table showing high and low temperatures for various locations today. Columns include location, high, low.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table showing hours of darkness for various locations. Columns include location, sun rise, sun set, moon rise, moon set.

Various advertisements on the right margin, including 'INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY', 'Aud', 'Lewis 29% s in Chr Interna', 'Offer puts V2 in tune with City', and 'Think a man a man'.

# THE TIMES

INSIDE SECTION

## 2 TODAY



### BUSINESS

Another bout of infighting rocks boat at Lloyd's  
PAGE 27



### ARTS

What happened when Henry met Anne Boleyn?  
PAGE 30-32



### SPORT

Patient Stewart at last claims the leading role  
PAGES 36-44

TELEVISION AND RADIO PAGES 42, 43

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY MAY 6 1998

## C&L 'should have raised alarm three months before publisher died'

# Auditor accused over Maxwell

By JON ASHWORTH

COOPERS & Lybrand (C&L) should have acted to highlight problems in the Maxwell empire more than three months before Robert Maxwell's death, according to a preliminary review by the leading accountancy watchdog.

Chris Dickson, the executive counsel to the Joint Disciplinary Scheme (JDS), which polices the profession, has laid complaints against C&L with respect to its role as auditor to several Maxwell companies, including Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN). Complaint has been laid with respect to

"the firm's consideration, by early August 1991, of its position in relation to the Maxwell entities for which it acted." Robert Maxwell died in November 1991. Complaints have also been laid against four of the firm's partners.

The executive counsel to the JDS only makes a formal complaint when he believes that a joint disciplinary tribunal could make an adverse finding. His work involves matters where the conduct or quality of work of a firm or individual appears to be in question. Matters affecting the professional or business conduct, efficiency or competence of chartered accountants are referred to the JDS if they give rise to public concern.

C&L was appointed auditor to the Maxwell group of companies in 1971, shortly after a report by Board of Trade inspectors into Pergamon Press concluded that Robert Maxwell "could not be relied upon to exercise proper stewardship of a publicly-quoted company." It held the audit for 20 years.

A tribunal is expected to convene in the late summer or autumn, chaired by an independent senior lawyer supported by two accountants. A report will be published. Mr Dickson, a former senior assistant director of the Serious Fraud Office (SFO), has laid complaints against C&L with respect to various Maxwell entities. They include the Maxwell pension funds, Robert Maxwell Group (RMG), the principal holding company for Maxwell private companies, and First Tokyo Index Trust, a quoted investment trust company.

## Lewis sells 29% share in Christie's International

By DOMINIC WALSH

JOE LEWIS, the Bahamas-based billionaire, has sold his 29 per cent stake in Christie's International just four months after an abortive attempt to take the auction house private.

Mr Lewis, who built up the stake between 1994 and 1996, has sold out to Artemis, the private French holding company controlled by François Pinault, whose interests range from the Printemps and Prismaic high street store chains to Samsonite luggage and the prestigious Château Latour vineyard.



Under the hammer: Christie's International saw its share price surge 13½p to 296p on news of the sale of 29 per cent of its shares to François Pinault

## Offer puts V2 in tune with City

By CHRIS AYRES

V2, THE record label founded 18 months ago by Richard Branson, the Virgin tycoon, has raised £74 million by offering high yield securities to a range of financial institutions.

The label, valued at about £160 million, features artists such as the Stereophonics, PM Dawn and the High Llamas. The offering was carried out by Morgan Stanley, which combined a 10-year maturity high yield bond with warrants to buy shares.

## EMEA confirms delay over drug worries

By PAUL DURMAN

EUROPEAN drug regulators yesterday officially confirmed that they had raised a series of objections to British Biotech's pancreatitis treatment last June, months before the drug development company told investors it had been refused a marketing licence.

In an unprecedented statement, the European Medicines Evaluation Agency said that its scientific committee had formally ruled last February that Zaccutex, the British Biotech drug, "was not approvable for the treatment of severe acute pancreatitis on the basis of the submitted data."

Encouraged by upbeat statements from the company, investors and analysts continued to believe Zaccutex had a good chance of approval until February, when British Biotech announced it had been turned down by the EMEA.

## Pound dips as rate rises loom for Continent

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S manufacturers yesterday breathed a sigh of relief as the pound tumbled towards a three-month low.

0.8, to 104.5. Analysts said that expectations that the interest rate gap between the UK and rest of Europe is set to close is likely to prompt further falls in sterling in coming months, although its safe-haven status should provide some support.

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### BUSINESS TODAY

#### STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	9996.5	(-23.8)
Yield	2.70%	
FTSE All share	2871.28	(-5.41)
Nikkei	Closed	
New York		
Dow Jones	9144.33	(-42.33)*
S&P Composite	1115.59	(-6.48)*

#### US RATE

Federal Funds	7½%	(5½%)
Long Bond	102½%	(102½%)
Yield	5.96%	(5.99%)

#### LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7½%	(7½%)
Libor 3m	8½%	(8½%)
Libor 6m	100%	(100%)

#### STERLING

New York	1.6810*	(1.6867)
London		
\$	1.6591	(1.6870)
DM	2.9412	(2.9642)
FF	3.8510	(3.8288)
SFr	2.4612	(2.4850)
Yen	218.57	(221.66)
\$ Index	104.5	(105.3)

#### NEW YORK DOLLAR

London	1.7725*	(1.7805)
DM	5.9449*	(5.9703)
SFr	1.4830*	(1.4820)
Yen	131.73*	(133.33)
\$ Index	109.2	(109.3)

Tokyo close Yen Closed

#### WORTH USA ON

Brant 15-day (Jul)	\$14.90	(\$15.35)
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#### GOLD

London close	\$303.75	(\$305.75)
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\* denotes midday trading price

## CRS loss nearly doubles to £25m

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

LOSSES at Co-operative Retail Services, the UK's largest single co-op supermarket business, nearly doubled last year after costs rose sharply.

Although turnover was unchanged at £1.54 billion, CRS incurred a pre-tax loss of £25.6 million in the year to January 31, compared with a loss of £12.5 million a year before.

Chris Thompson, chief financial officer, blamed the disruption caused by the £155 million investment in new systems and store upgrades. There had been overstaffing at some supermarkets and margins on food sales had suffered. Mr Thompson expects CRS to return to profit this year. CRS plans to spend a further £90 million on improving its businesses this year.

Peter Rowbotham, chairman, said "in common with a number of co-operative retail operations, we were facing gradual decline and needed some radical surgery if we wanted to reverse the process. Certainly it's not been easy, and we're only half way through the programme, but all the indications are that we have turned the corner."

CRS has 474 supermarkets. About 90 have been modernised, and own-branded ranges are being introduced throughout the chain. CRS plans to spend £12 million on advertising this year. CRS has department stores called Living and large edge-of-town stores called Homeworld. Its funeral business carried out 29,000 funerals last year.

# Names not threatened, says Lloyd's chairman

By ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

We know what's around the corner

THE chairman of Lloyd's, the insurance market, yesterday sought to calm fears that reforms are being considered that could banish names, the individuals who have backed the business for the past 300 years.

In comments that accompanied the publication of record profit figures, Max Taylor said: "There is no question that anyone is trying to drive out any capital provider."

Fears have been expressed that attempts to cut the operating costs at Lloyd's could marginalise those individuals — the names — who stake their wealth to back insurance policies in favour of corporate

backers. Mr Taylor said that the Lloyd's executive was undertaking a close examination of operating methods. He also said that all those involved with the insurance market had to be made aware of the competitive pressures from outside that may influence its prospects.

The comments were given added piquancy by parallel statements about the current profitability of the Lloyd's market. Yesterday's record profits relate to 1995, but Mr Taylor said current trading conditions were much harsher.

Profit after expenses were £1.15 billion in 1995, 5 per cent ahead of the equivalent figure

for 1994. Projections for 1996 and 1997, however, pencil in profits falling to £574 million and then £366 million. Some believe that Lloyd's will do well to break even this year.

Firm results take three years to publish, largely because the figures are an amalgamation of the performance of all those who participate at Lloyd's.

Before deduction of personal expenses incurred by names Lloyd's made profits of £1.66 billion. Total net premiums were £5.9 billion, putting the average return at 28 per cent. Return after expenses was 17 per cent.

The central costs of Lloyd's

were lowered by £40 million to £182 million, but this was helped by the expiry of funding obligations incurred at the time of the reconstruction and renewal programme. This enabled Lloyd's to draw back from the brink of collapse after incurring nearly £3 billion of losses between 1989 and 1993.

However Mr Taylor said: "Projections for 1996 and 1997 show a reduction in profitability, reflecting lower rating conditions. Regrettably, in 1998, conditions are tougher still. Underwriters will need to use all their skill and ingenuity to produce profits."

Battle for survival, page 27

## PW steps down from review of Ulster firm

By JASON NISSÉ

PRICE WATERHOUSE, the accountancy firm due to review an investigation of accounting irregularities at Powerscreen International, has stood down, claiming there might be a potential conflict of interest.

The Ulster group turned to PW when it discovered problems at Matbro, its agricultural machinery business, which have led to write-offs reaching more than £47 million.

The Stock Exchange and KPMG, Powerscreen's auditor, have been looking into the problems at Matbro and a report from KPMG is expected to be completed this month.

A list of "major conclusions" was shown to the Powerscreen board and PW last week. At that point, the accountant said that it was possible legal action could be taken against another PW client. The client is understood to be a company that may have been a Matbro customer.

Herbert Smith, the City law firm, will now review KPMG's conclusions.

Powerscreen intends to write to shareholders detailing the "major conclusions" in the next two weeks, though this report had been expected to be published this week.



CELEBRATED GROUP, the themed restaurant operator, yesterday revealed that weekly sales in its Starvin' Marvin's chain had risen 11 per cent in April compared with March. Costs also fell by 7 per

cent. It was the first ever profitable month for the seven-strong, 1950s-style American chain. Michael Bush, above, chief executive, said the performance reflected new operational efficiencies.

## April sales stoke up house price inflation

By CAROLINE MERRELL

HOUSE prices rose by 0.8 per cent last month, according to the monthly Halifax price index.

The one-month rise brought the annual rate of house price inflation to 5.6 per cent, up on March's annual figure of 5 per cent. However, Halifax maintains that house prices will only rise by 5 per cent over the entire year. The increase means that the average price of a house in the UK is now £71,285.

First time buyers were forced to pay substantially more for houses in April, as prices in this sector of the market rose by 2.2 per cent, compared with the 1.3 per cent rise in the previous month.

Annual house price inflation for first time buyers is now running at 4.7 per cent and the average price paid in this sector during April was £51,815.

The increase follows a slowdown in monthly rises at the beginning of the year. According to the Halifax, house prices were stationary in February, and even fell slightly at the end of last year.

According to the index, overall house prices rose by 6.3 per cent last year, and 4.5 per cent in 1996.

## Polluting gas gets own futures market

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A FUTURES market in the gas that causes global warming was unveiled yesterday by the International Petroleum Exchange (IPE). The aim is to help Britain and, later, the rest of the developed world to meet emission reduction targets agreed at Kyoto in December.

The IPE concluded that a market could operate with about 150 of Britain's biggest polluters, ranging from power groups to chemical manufacturers. These companies are responsible for 53 per cent, or 572 million tonnes, of annual carbon dioxide emissions. Under

the scheme, aimed at meeting the EU's target of an 8 per cent cut in global warming gases by 2012, each company will be issued with tradeable carbon permits. At the end of the year, companies that have polluted in excess of their permit will have to buy extra permits from those that have cut emissions through energy saving or switching road freight to rail.

The IPE proposes penalties as part of the trading. A company that exceeded permitted emissions would be fined at twice a permit's market rate, and have its next allocation cut.

## Profits double at resurgent Sidlaw

By KATHY LIPARI

SIDLAW, the packaging group, yesterday continued along the path to recovery posting a better than expected interim pre-tax profit and unveiling plans to step up its expansion programme.

Profit before tax and exceptional was £3.5 million in the six months to the end of March — more than double the £1.7 million earned in the previous corresponding half.

John Durston, the chief executive, said the group was firmly back on track and would shift its focus to expanding the business through ac-

quisitions and organic growth. Sidlaw has moved to off load a number of underperforming businesses during the past two years, including its oil services division, to refocus on the flexible packaging market.

Turnover from continuing operations was held back by sterling's strength, increasing slightly to £74.6 million from £74.2 million. Earnings per share jumped from 2.3p to 4.8p and the interim dividend was increased to 1.25p from 1p. Shares ended 4p stronger at 115½ p yesterday.

## CIA plans executive share handout

By JASON NISSÉ

CIA GROUP, the media buying agency, is facing a potential showdown with Martin Sorrell's WPP, which owns 13 per cent of the company, about a controversial incentive scheme that would give more than 10 per cent of the company to its top executives.

The CIA long-term incentive plan is to be put before shareholders later this month and proposes handing out shares

worth more than £15 million to the top 30 executives over a five-year period.

Manifest, the corporate governance consultancy, has said the plan breaches institutional guidelines because it hands out more than 10 per cent of the group's equity.

However, Chris Ingram, CIA's founder, chairman and largest shareholder, defended the scheme, saying it was needed to motivate senior staff in a competitive environment, had exacting

performance targets and was supported by CIA's leading institutional shareholders, Mercury Asset Management, Standard Life and Foreign & Colonial.

Mr Sorrell, whose company bought its stake a year ago and has been seen as a potential purchaser for CIA, said yesterday it has not been consulted about the scheme. However, the effect of the plan would be to make CIA virtually bid proof as the senior directors already hold 40 per cent of the group's shares.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Coda expects to incur loss as result of bid

CODA GROUP, the computer software specialist that is the subject of an offer from Baan, a Dutch company, is expected to incur a half-year pre-tax loss. Colin Gaskell, the Coda chairman, said that since February, when Baan announced its intention to bid, a number of prospective sales had been deferred. Results would be "significantly below both budgeted results and the level that the board had expected to report in the absence of such an offer". In an agreed bid, Baan offered the equivalent of 100p a share, valuing Coda at £52.9 million.

Mr Gaskell said if Baan's offer was not completed, Coda would need to enter into discussions with its bankers and shareholders to request additional short-term funding. Last Monday Baan said that it had received acceptances for 82.4 per cent of Coda's shares and that its bid had been extended to next Tuesday.

## ICI speeds conversion

ICI, the chemicals group, yesterday accelerated its shift into consumer-oriented and speciality operations by buying a US business that makes surfactants used in personal care and household products. The acquisition of Mona Industries, of New Jersey, is thought to be worth about \$40 million (£23 million). A series of acquisitions to further ICI's conversion from commodities supplier to speciality business is expected over the next few months. ICI said the Mona purchase would enhance earnings in its first year before a goodwill write-off.

## BG overseas expansion

BG HAS furthered its overseas expansion with fresh gas field developments and a potential deal on gas imports. The company, which runs the Transco pipeline network in the UK and has a large international division, has opened three more gas wells in Indonesia in a development operated with production-sharing partners. Yesterday BG said it had signed a memorandum of understanding with the Yemen LNG Company to look at supplying gas to western India. BG is developing an import project at Pipavav in Gujarat State.

## FKI buys US group

FKI, the engineering group, is paying £42.8 million cash for Allen-Stevens, a US doors and windows group, and part of an associated company, North American Die Cast Corporation, in a debt-free deal. The businesses being bought made an operating profit of £4.6 million in the year to December 1997, on sales of £30.1 million. They will be integrated into FKI's Truth Hardware subsidiary in the US. FKI said that Allen-Stevens' strength in sash locks for PVC windows would complement Truth's position in wood-casement windows.

## Swiss deal approved

SWITZERLAND'S anti-trust watchdog has conditionally approved the merger of Union Bank of Switzerland and Swiss Bank Corporation. The merged bank, to be called United Bank of Switzerland, must sell some 25 bank branches as a package. The merged bank must also sell off its subsidiary in the Italian speaking canton (state) of Ticino, Banca della Svizzera Italiana, as well as Solothurner Bank, another Swiss subsidiary, and Bossiab Corp, which provides information technology for banking services.

## Bre-X assets order

THE assets of David Walsh, the former head of Bre-X Minerals, and his wife Jeanette are frozen until the courts settle outstanding cases, the company's trustee announced. The assets are frozen to recover funds and to reimburse creditors of Bre-X. The successful summons, filed in the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, claimed that Bre-X suffered damages as a result of David Walsh's breach of duty and his negligence while head of the company. As many as 40,000 investors may have lost money on Bre-X shares.

## Algerian oil lifts Lasmô

SHARES in Lasmô rose 7½ p, to 273½ p, after the oil company reported first production from its Algerian oilfields. Lasmô said that first oil was produced from the Hassi Berkine South field on Monday. The field's central production facility is expected to reach 60,000 barrels a day in about 60 days as development wells are brought online. Joe Darby, chief executive, said: "This is a major milestone in our programme to develop the world-class fields that Lasmô and its partners have discovered with reserves estimated to be in the region of 2 billion barrels gross."

## Greycoat buys into Soho

GREYCOAT, the property group, is buying the freehold of 76-88 Wardour Street, London, from London & Regional Properties for £13 million cash. The building has 39,600 sq ft net let out for restaurant and retail accommodation and offices with income totalling £607,750 a year. Refurbishment will commence in late summer and the resultant 18,000 sq ft net of offices will be available in mid-1999. Greycoat chief executive, Peter Thornton, said the purchase is "another excellent opportunity for us in the improving Soho market".

### TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.98	Bank of Montreal	1.00
Austria Sch	21.95	Barclays	1.00
Belgium Fr	93.75	Deutsche	1.00
Canada \$	2.29	HSBC	1.00
Cyprus Cyp	0.507	Ind. Comp. Bank	1.00
Denmark Kr	11.79	London & Regional	1.00
Finland Mk	8.72	Paribas	1.00
France Fr	10.32	Paribas	1.00
Germany M	3.10	Paribas	1.00
Greece Dr	594	Paribas	1.00
Hong Kong \$	13.67	Paribas	1.00
India Rupee	131	Paribas	1.00
Ireland P	1.22	Paribas	1.00
Israel Sh	6.51	Paribas	1.00
Italy Lira	2072	Paribas	1.00
Japan Yen	233.12	Paribas	1.00



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فكرنا من الأصل



# Coopers must be called to account

When Robert Maxwell made his final disembarkation from the *Lady Ghislaine*, few could have guessed at the extent of the mess he left behind. It was only gradually, after the tributes had poured forth from politicians, that the bullying publisher's wicked legacy became apparent. Yet are we to believe Maxwell to have been such an accomplished fraudster that no one spotted his tricks while he was still alive? Chris Dickson is bravely pointing an accusing finger at Coopers & Lybrand and saying what many have muttered in private for years. If the firm did not spot that something was seriously amiss, then it should have done.

As auditors to most of the Maxwell empire, Coopers had a huge responsibility. He was not just any over-powering corporate boss, but one who had been officially branded as unfit to run a public company. A little extra care in looking at the books might have been considered necessary. Yet as Maxwell robbed his pension funds and shuffled his funds around, the auditors apparently spotted nothing. Even if Maxwell had the sleight of hand of Paul Daniels, one would have hoped that a sharp-eyed auditor might have realised that there was an illusion taking place. Now the accountants' professional disciplinary body is indicating that it has come to a similar view.

Yesterday's brief statement from its executive counsel, Mr Dickson, should have caused a degree of discomfort in Coopers' swanky London headquarters.

The number of complaints laid against the firm should ensure a lengthy hearing once the Disciplinary Tribunal gets into action this summer. It is crucial that it should not be a whitewash.

When auditors sign off a set of accounts, investors need to be able to believe that all is as it appears. The service does not come cheaply, particularly when the major firms are providing the signature but there is a mistaken belief that the bigger the firm, the more reliable the verdict. In using Coopers & Lybrand, Maxwell was buying respectability.

Investors should not have let their guard drop. Big firms can be hoodwinked as easily as small ones. Sometimes, it even seems that they may opt for the three monkeys approach to the job, leaving the term auditing as something of a misnomer.

Coopers is not the only firm to be left looking, at the very least, and not wishing to pre-judge the tribunal. ill-informed. Shareholders in Wickes had reason to feel that Arthur Andersen, another of the giants of the

profession, might have spotted that two accounting systems were in operation in the firm. The auditors report in a set of accounts sends a powerful message to readers. It needs to be reliable. That may mean accountants having to stand up to clients in a way that they find distasteful and, potentially, expensive. But losing one client over such an issue would be a small price for a firm to pay in preserving its integrity.

## High price paid for bullfrog currency

Arguments about political interference in central banking are not the esoteric matter some would like to think. Almost 300 million citizens in the 11 countries signed up for the euro face the prospect of higher interest rates as a result of the weekend fudge over the leadership of the European Cen-

## COMMENTARY

by our City Editor



tral Bank. As realists feared, it is going to be more like the Common Agricultural Policy than a rainbow version of the Bundesbank. That does not mean that French central bankers are softer on inflation than Dutch. It does mean that strong and direct political pressure will be applied over the competing claims of internal stability and the euro's external exchange rate.

In its remaining few months of power, the Bundesbank seems likely to counter the inherent weakness exposed at the Brussels summit by ensuring that actual monetary policy is that much tighter if necessary. Higher interest rates than would otherwise be needed will pay for France's *amour propre* just as they paid for Germany being reunified on politically manipulated terms.

The first fruits of the Bundesbank's discreet propaganda exercise could be seen yesterday. Denmark, an "out" whose fortunes are closely linked to

Germany's, raised interest rates in anticipation of the Bundesbank doing so soon. Continental share prices, which rose by an average of nearly 2 per cent on Monday, fell right back.

Higher rates paid by euro-zone consumers will be matched by higher rates to savers. But this is no zero-sum game. Higher short-term rates and bond prices mean lower growth and lower share prices. Even a half-point rise in the average real interest rate on the euro in its first few years will be enough to knock growth by a similar proportion.

As its own internal problems show, the last thing Denmark needs at the moment is lower growth. Much the same could be said of Germany, to greater effect. While politicians were blowing trumpets for the euro, the latest economic temperature readings were lacklustre, especially in the East, where unemployment is already dire. For sterling, any relief from the

role of safe haven is welcome, even if it is sustained only by the Bundesbank's bullfrog stance. To be sustained, the huffing and puffing will have to be turned into action. And that will bring the unwelcome realisation that, for French diplomacy to sustain *la gloire*, interest rates will surely have to converge upwards.

## Co-op slips up on banana skins

Co-op supermarkets have been around a very long time, and certain basic retailing skills should not be in short supply. But a £22.3 million operating loss on £1.5 billion of sales suggests that they must be badly lacking.

Co-operative Retail Services, which operates nearly 500 Co-ops, spent £55 million on updating its business last year. It modernised some stores, developed its own brands and upgraded its electronic systems — laudable, if very overdue, moves. Yet CRS has now had to admit that while it was righting a few wrongs, it was making many more mistakes. It began opening more stores in the evening, but wiped out the benefit

of extra sales by over-staffing. It stacked shelves with fresh food, then had to throw much of it away in the morning. The group says these slip-ups will not be repeated, but there is little reason for confidence in the CRS's ability to avoid scattering its own banana skins.

CRS has opted out of a straight attack on the big superstore groups, saying it is a far too competitive an environment. But its own chosen battleground, convenience stores, is also tough, with companies such as Somerfield, Budgens and Watson & Phillip all investing in their businesses.

After CWS, the other big co-operative retailer, managed to wriggle its way out of the grasp of Andrew Regan and his asset stripping friends last year, the whole movement vowed to modernise. So far, the efforts have not been impressive.

## Cliveden booked

Hotel company Cliveden appears to have attracted the attention of an overseas suitor at long last. The eponymous Berkshire stately home which is its major asset would have obvious appeal to the US organisations which are currently sweeping up luxury hotels. The former home of the Astors is now a thriving hotel but the property's racier past, as the venue for the start of the infamous Profumo affair, might appeal to theme park operators.

# BP plans return to Iran as oil price takes its toll

By Adam Jones

BRITISH PETROLEUM is re-establishing a base in Iran for the first time since the 1970s to negotiate with the country's state-owned oil company.

The announcement came as BP revealed yesterday that a sharp fall in the price of oil had caused a 22 per cent drop in first-quarter profits.

John Browne, the BP chief executive, said the group was opening a representative office in Tehran to negotiate with the National Iranian Oil Company but would not resume trading while the US maintained sanctions.

BP is bound to follow Washington's stance since it has 30 per cent of its asset base in the US, where it is the biggest domestic producer of oil. It left Iran after the fall of the Shah in the late 1970s. A spokesman refused to say what would be discussed with the Iranians: "We have ongoing conversations with all sorts of people."

BP said that its replacement cost profit — a figure that strips out inventory gains and losses — fell from £755 million in the first three months of 1997 to £582 million in the corresponding period of 1998, before exceptional. Profit forecasts had ranged from £460 million to £627 million.



John Browne indicated that BP would abide by US policy on trade with Iran

Mr Browne announced a 5.75p quarterly dividend, up from 5.25p in the first quarter of 1997. However, BP shares still slipped from 953p to 939p at close of trading amid continued oil price weakness. Over the year, average oil prices have fallen 33 per cent.

Mr Browne said a bid for Rosneft, the largest Russian oil company yet to be put up for privatisation, appeared to be out of the question at the

current asking price. One industry source claimed the Russians were asking as much as \$3.1 billion (£1.8 billion) for a share of 75 per cent or less. BP had been seen as a likely potential bidder in the forthcoming auction.

Jurjet Lunshof, an analyst with Credit Lyonnais, said the first quarter figures were good in the circumstances. He said: "We are looking for better performance to come."

Profits after tax fell from £602 million in the first quarter of 1997 to £270 million. Earnings per share were 4.7p, down from 10.6p.

BP offset the fall in the oil price with improvements in its downstream refining and marketing. Replacement cost operating profit was up from £179 million in the first quarter of 1997 to £233 million.

Tempus, page 26

# Kingfisher acquires German retailers

By Sarah Cunninghamham

KINGFISHER, the B&Q to Comet retail group, is stepping up its European expansion with the purchase of controlling stakes in two German electrical retailers.

It is paying £50 million to buy 60 per cent of Wegert and of Promarkt Holdings, two companies that operate Promarkt stores throughout Germany. As part of the deal, the two companies will merge. Kingfisher also has an option to buy the rest of the combined business for a maximum of £202.5 million.

Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy, chief executive, said the purchase "is a major step forward in our development of a pan-European electricals operation."

Kingfisher already owns Darty, a French electricals retailer, and has a share in But, another French company. It also has electrical retailing interests in The Netherlands and Belgium.

Wegert made a pre-tax profit of £6.3 million in 1997 on turnover of £237.3 million. Promarkt Holdings' 1997 pre-tax profit was £222 million on sales of £164.1 million.

Kingfisher is also buying the whole of Profinanz, Wegert's consumer credit business, for £38 million.

Tempus, page 26

# Computacenter float set to beat £1bn valuation

By Chris Ayres

COMPUTACENTER could be valued at up to £1.25 billion when it floats on the Stock Exchange at the end of the month — about £350 million more than analysts predicted.

The flotation will catapult the two men who founded the computer services company, Philip Hulme and Peter Odgen, into the top 60 wealthiest people in Britain. Both men hold stakes of roughly 26 per cent, worth about £331 million on paper.

Mr Odgen, chief executive, said he was confident that the float would be a success. "Some analysts are giving very articulate reasons on why IT shares are very cheap," he said. "The only thing that worries me is that we are giving free shares to everyone on flotation — it will not be motivationally good if they go down."

Computacenter, which published its pathfinder prospectus yesterday, said it would offer 44.3 million shares — about 26 per cent of the company — at between 530p and 670p each. At 610p, the company would be valued at just over £1 billion. The higher value of £1.25 billion will be achieved if all the share options are traded.

Mr Hulme, chairman of

Computacenter, will receive a total salary of £300,000, as will Mr Norris, who could also receive a bonus capped at £150,000. Tony Conophy, finance director, will receive £200,000 and could get a bonus capped at £100,000.

About 100 employees, whose total stake will be reduced from 17.8 per cent to 15.7 per cent, will share a paper profit of about £200 million. About 30 members of senior management will become millionaires, while all employees will get some free shares.

Tempus, page 26



Norris: confident of success

# BTR sells Australian companies

BTR, the UK engineering group, has raised £62.5 million by selling two Australian aerospace companies.

Hawker Pacific, an aircraft maintenance business, has been sold to part of Celis, the Swedish defence group. Turnover in 1997 was £45 million. Hawker de Havilland has gone to Tenix Group. Turnover in 1997 was £77 million.

The total consideration represents a £4.5 million premium on book value.

**Bilston in red**  
Restructuring costs of £687,000 drove Bilston & Battersea Enamels, maker of Halcyon Days goods, to a £562,000 1997 pre-tax loss (1996: profit of £545,000). Sales, hit by sterling's strength, fell a tenth to £6.8 million. The first and final payout is cut to 0.75p (1.5p).

## Laboratory hit

Huntingdon Life Sciences, the animal testing company, saw pre-tax losses of £4 million in the first quarter of this year (£163,000 profit in 1997's first quarter) while trying to win back work withdrawn by drug groups after bad publicity.

## Cliveden talks

Shares in Cliveden rose 12p to 91p after the hotelier confirmed that it is in takeover talks. Its suitor is thought to be a US investment group, but industry sources ruled out real estate investment trusts.

## Tomkins buys

Tomkins, the conglomerate, has paid £59 million for Le Pain Croustillant, the Britain's leading maker of frozen part-baked bread.

TECHNOLOGY  
BUSINESS TRAVEL  
CORPORATE HOSPITALITY  
CONFERENCE  
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Tuesday 19th, Wednesday 20th, Thursday 21st May  
10am-5pm

# O'Reilly plans to lead Fitzwilton buyout

By Sarah Cunninghamham

TONY O'REILLY, the Irish businessman, is leading a consortium that plans to buyout Fitzwilton, the quoted investment vehicle he set up in the 1970s.

The consortium, which also

includes Peter John Goulandris, his brother-in-law, and Lewis Gluckman, the American banker and Fitzwilton non-executive director, proposes paying 150p (42p) per Fitzwilton share, which is a 37 per cent premium to Friday's closing price. Be-

tween them, Mr O'Reilly, the former head of the Heinz food empire, and Mr Goulandris own 27.6 per cent of Fitzwilton.

The Fitzwilton directors not involved in the bid have appointed Deutsche Morgan Grenfell as advisers. The in-

vestment company, which holds a large stake in Waterford Wedgwood and runs a supermarkets joint venture with Safeway, saw its interim pre-tax profits fall 16 per cent to £4.27 million. It is due to announce its full-year profits on Thursday.

# Pentair ups stakes with bid for Vero

By Matthew Barbour

THE tug of war between two American technology companies for Vero, the small British electronics company, took a new turn yesterday when the bid for the British minnow was raised to £102.2 million.

The new bid by Pentair, the electronic equipment maker, represents a premium of 8.3 per cent to the £94.4 million offer made two weeks ago by Applied Power. Pentair announced its intention to bid only hours after Applied Power revealed its offer.

Pentair and Applied Power are keen to expand European markets through Vero.

The takeover battle broke out just weeks after Vero confirmed that the strong pound had wiped £2 million from its 1997 pre-tax profits, the same year in which its shares fell to 79p from 195p.

At 170p cash a share, the bid is far higher than the City expected. When Brian Gay, managing director, announced a month ago that he had received an informal bid, he indicated that the price was likely to be about 125p. Vero's shareholders will keep the 3.5p final dividend. Vero shares rose 7.2p to 180p yesterday.

# Acquisitive Incepta sees 263% leap

By Matthew Barbour

THE acquisition of advertising and PR company Citigate has boosted year-end pre-tax profits at Incepta, the marketing communications group, to £5.6 million, up 263 per cent on last year.

Turnover for the year ending February 28 was £88.2 million, up 424 per cent on last year's £16.8 million.

The group, which specialises in absorbing and stream-lining smaller associated companies, boasts one of the best margins in the sector at 16 per cent.

David Wright, Incepta's chief executive, said the impressive performance had been driven by its strong staff. One third of Incepta employees own equity and staff turnover is just 1 per cent.

Mr Wright added that the company was aiming for a market capitalisation of £100 million by the end of the year compared with its current level of around £60 million. Fully diluted earnings per share are up 98 per cent to 172p. The board has proposed paying an end of year dividend of 35p.

The group's share price yesterday closed up 2.4p to 25.2p.

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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK Stock Market Writer of the Year

Prices slide below 6,000 on fears over Far East

HOPES that the London stock market could capitalise on another record-breaking run on Wall Street overnight were soon dashed. Share prices slipped back below the 6,000 level after a firm start reflecting fresh fears about deteriorating economic conditions in the Far East.

Another round of selling in the financial sector and opening losses in New York dragged leading shares lower. The FTSE 100, up 54.3 early on, retreated to close 23.8 down on the day at 5,986.5.

By contrast, the FTSE 250 closed 29.3 up at 5,682.3. It has become a sanctuary for those former blue chip industrialists that rely on the export market for their profits. Sterling's recent losses have been their gain and that was reflected in share values.

Speculative buying drove PowerGen 18p higher to 825p on weekend reports the group may be in merger talks with Houston Industries. Bid target EMI Group retreated 12p to 585p. Speculators are still hoping that Seagram will make an offer of between 585p and 600p a share.

Revised speculation that Christie's International may come under the hammer lifted the price 13p to 296p. Joe Lewis, the billionaire financier, has sold his entire holding of 49.4 million shares, or 29 per cent of the issued share capital, to Artemis, a French company controlled by Francois Pinault, for an undisclosed price.



David Wright, chief executive of Incepta, which reported a 250 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £5.6 million

Cliveden is capitalised at almost £45 million. Rival Thistle Hotels rose 9p to 186p as Credit Suisse First Boston raised its recommendation on the shares from "hold" to "buy". It has also set a target price of 215p.

Incepta, the advertising and financial public relations agency, firmed 14p to 24 1/2p after reporting a near 250 per cent rise in pre-tax profits last year to £5.6 million. Carpetright rose 22p at 360p reflecting Friday's foray into the marketplace by Lord Harris of Peckham, founder and chairman. He picked up 290,000 shares at 330p raising his holding to 12.87 million shares, or 16.16 per cent.

Anita Roddick's Body Shop held steady at 110 1/2p after confirming it is in talks with a potential joint-venture partner to help with the running of its 290-strong chain of loss-making US stores. It was the first day of dealings for JWE Telecom shares in the group, which supplies and repairs mobile handsets, started life at 115 1/2p before closing at its best of the day at 125p as almost 2 million shares changed hands.

The breakdown in bid talks left Aspen Group 11 1/2p lower at 101p. The US investment company Quaestus blamed the breakdown on its other commitments. The biggest fall on the day was seen in Boosey & Hawkes, down 13 1/2p at 637 1/2p after announcing details of a share restructuring. GILT-EDGED: The half-point rise in Danish interest rates to 4 per cent un-nerved the London bond market as investors became worried that it may put pressure on the Bundesbank to follow suit. Prices dropped by almost 1p at the longer end in thin trading.

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In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt fell 1/2p to 108 1/2p, as a modest total of 54,000 contracts were completed. The five-year future lost £0.20 to £103.06 on turnover of 454 contracts. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 fell 1/2p to £128 1/2p, while at the shorter end Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 1/2p lower at £103 1/2p. NEW YORK: US shares were marked lower with sentiment dented by the sagging dollar and bonds, coupled with hints that blue chips could be running out of steam. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 48.33 at 9,144.33.

MAJOR INDICES

Table with columns for Index Name, Current Value, and Change. Includes New York (midday), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London, and various regional indices.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues with columns for Company Name, Price, and Change. Includes AB Airlines, ARM Holdings, Aberdeen City, Advent 2 VCT, Capitan OM Wams, etc.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table listing rights issues with columns for Company Name, Price, and Change. Includes Avoca Mining, Freppel Leds, Guinness, etc.

MAJOR CHANGES

Table listing major changes with columns for Company Name, Price, and Change. Includes Real Time, Capelight, Guinness, etc.

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TEMPUS Dull is beautiful

COMPUTACENTER is not an interesting company. That will perhaps be its greatest strength in an IT sector brimming with stocks fuelled by adrenaline and little else.

Computacenter has even invented a dull catchphrase - out-tasking - to describe its business. Out-tasking is not to be confused with outsourcing, which often involves replacing a client's entire IT department with IT managers to help with all stages of a computer system purchase, from planning to after-sales support.

The risky and low-margin activities of developing software, bolting together hardware and lugging PCs around are largely avoided. Instead, Computacenter is a relatively high-margin business based on people rather than technology.

Lyonnais are among supporters of the stock. Earlier this month, Merrill Lynch forecast a 9 per cent annual earnings growth from 1997 to 2002 despite the tough conditions of this year.

Share repurchases worth \$2 billion (£1.2 billion) are expected in 1999, which would halve the dilutive creep in the number of shares that

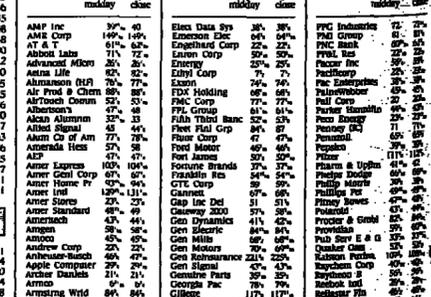
has taken place in recent years. Recent earnings per share estimates for 1998 have varied from about 42p to 52p suggesting a prospective p/e for the year somewhere between 18 and 21. With continuing optimism that the oil price has finally come off the bottom, the shares look comfortable and could move higher.

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FRS 10 "ON me balance sheet, son," could soon be the cry around Britain's football clubs, as managements find out that they have to pay as much attention to the Accounting Standards Board as to the FA Disciplinary Committee.

Sidlaw SIDLAW's interim results suggest the company has turned the corner after the turmoil of the mid 1990s. The results may not have the City alight but they

will be ahead of most expectations. At 115 1/2p the shares are a long way from the 35p peak reached in 1994. But Sidlaw is a very different company, having disposed of its oil services business at the end of 1996 to focus on flexible packaging.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including COCOA, ROBUSTA COFFEE, WHITE SUGAR, MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION, and various oil and grain futures.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures including Long Gilt, German Govt Bond, Five Year Gilt, Italian Govt Bond, Japanese Govt Bond, Three Mth Sterling, etc.

DOLLAR RATES

Table of dollar rates for various countries including Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Korea, etc.

OTHER STERLING

Table of other sterling rates for various countries including Argentina, Bahrain, Brazil, Chile, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, etc.

MONETARY RATES (%)

Table of monetary rates for various countries including Base Rates, Treasury Bills, Prime Bank Bills, etc.

FTSE VOLUMES

Table of FTSE volumes for various sectors including ASDA, Abbey, Allied, Alliance, Amec, Amstar, etc.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table of European money deposits for various currencies including Dollar, Deutsche Mark, Swiss Franc, etc.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Table of gold and precious metals prices including Bullion, Platinum, etc.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates for various currencies including Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Dublin, etc.

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Insurance advertisement for Robert Cole, featuring a portrait of a man and text about insurance services.

# Markets yet to have final say on EMU

The lack of fireworks in the financial markets on Monday was interpreted in some quarters as a thumbs-up to the euro project. It was regarded as shocking that traders did not punish the Franco-German warfare that dominated the Brussels summit. The non-reaction was neither of these things.

The markets take a coldly realistic view of politicians parading their national egos but as long as it does not make a material difference to economic policy, to the prospects for bond yields or currencies, any amount of political shenanigans can be tolerated.

So has the row over the European Central Bank made any material difference? The answer is that it has confirmed what the markets have known all along: that, for the sake of his European grand plan, Chancellor Kohl is prepared to break his promise that the euro will be just as strong a

currency as the mark has been, backed by a central bank strictly free of political influence.

Everyone has known for a long time that France is pursuing an agenda that is quite at odds with the one pursued by Germany. It has shown, from its campaign against Germany's stability pact to its single-minded insistence on a French central bank president, that it means to fashion a Europe that is not run by unaccountable central bankers.

France has not flagellated itself with more than a decade of very tough economic discipline for anything less than the prize of real political influence and breaking the German monopoly on European economic policymaking.

Opinion polls show overwhelming

ly that they want their Government to impose democratic control over the central bankers and last weekend counts as a major success. This week, the French people have every reason to be pleased. For Germans, committed like no other people to a tough anti-inflationary and independent central bank, their worst nightmares are coming true. If Herr Kohl had any chance of winning re-election, surely it must now have gone.

There can be no doubt that the great alliance between France and Germany on which this project has been built is looking ragged. Friends who fall out can endure the most bitter of relations and this cannot be good for the euro-project going forward. Germany is likely to be mistrustful of France's inter-



JANET BUSH

actions. Europe's central bankers are ballistic. Egg on faces everywhere.

However, this need not unduly worry the markets. Their horizons are far too short and they know that there is little mileage, for now, in trying to assault the euro-II. The bilateral exchange rates set at the weekend will be defended by the

combined reserves of 11 central banks. In any case, convergence has been far reaching enough for there to be little reason to attack the euro currencies. Traders also know that any attempt to undermine the mark over the next eight months will be met by higher rates from the Bundesbank. That is why the mark is rising and German bonds are falling.

This is the Bundesbank's last stand. It has lost the battle but it can go down fighting with honour. Over the next eight months, the German bank is in charge even more surely than in the past because the currencies that will form the euro in January must stick like glue to the German currency if the euro is to be launched smoothly. There is now a *de facto* monetary

union but, until the ECB takes over, the Bundesbank is king.

The process of interest rate convergence always meant that German rates would rise to meet high-yielders on their way down. If the Bundesbank feels that credibility needs to be reinforced, this suggests that rates will meet at a somewhat higher level than had been anticipated. If the ECB row has a lasting impact, it is to make sure that the cost of launching the euro is just that bit higher, an unnecessary imposition when Europe is only just emerging from the low growth forced upon it by meeting the Maastricht criteria.

For the markets, however, the question of an extra 0.25 per cent on euro-rates is a small earthquake with no casualties. That is

not to say that anyone should be lulled into thinking that the markets have finally acquiesced or that their appetite for rational destruction has been sated.

On Bank Holiday Monday, one trader on Liffe said that the day would come when Europe's leaders would have to face up to the socio-economic realities of monetary union: high unemployment, resistance to the need to overhaul social security systems and labour markets, the tensions that will come as some regions thrive at the expense of others and the rich are faced with demands for large subsidies for the poor.

"We will wait," he said. "Every day that passes when the politicians manage to control the agenda is a day nearer to when they will no longer be able to. Then we will be ready."

France and Germany had better bury their differences before this assault comes upon them.

# Insurance professionals locked in another battle for survival

Robert Cole looks at the latest bout of infighting to rock the boat at Lloyd's

Just when you thought it was safe to go back into Lime Street — home of the Lloyd's insurance market — controversy strikes again. London's insurance professionals are at each other's throats — metaphorically speaking, and in the very gentlemanly way you would expect of people at this, the oldest of City institutions.

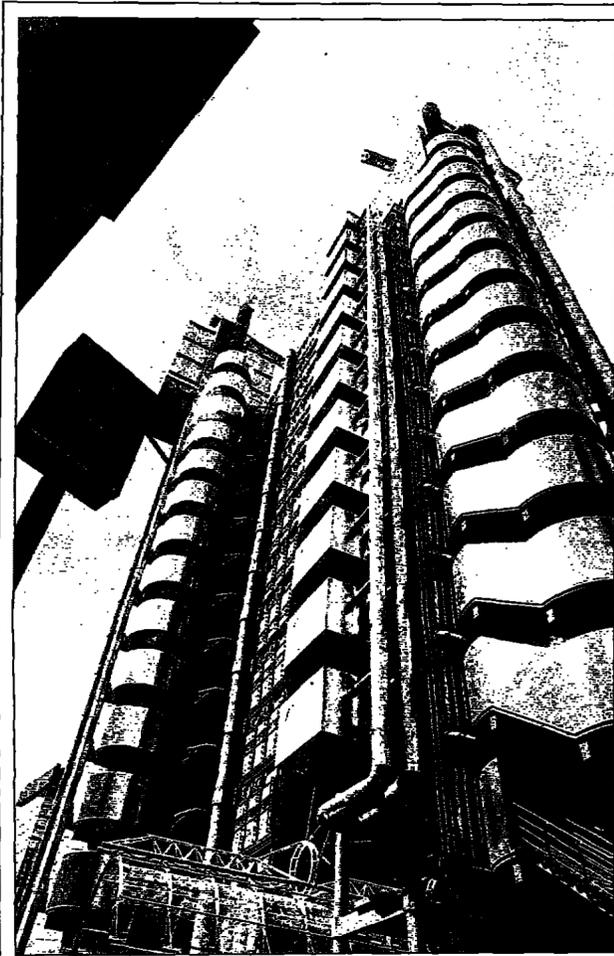
Last time it was about how they could swallow nearly £8 billion of losses and survive. That was a saga of epic proportions and dragged on for the best part of a decade. This time the stakes may not be quite so high, the drama not quite so acute, nor the situation quite so dire. But both sides of this latest debate contend that the very existence of Lloyd's is threatened.

The arguments are complex and made more so because personalities play such an important part in the running of Lloyd's. It is also somewhat artificial to divorce the current bout of infighting from the well-documented difficulties that accompanied the £8 billion loss.

Today's battles stem directly from the acceptance in 1994 of corporate members. Back then individual names were over a barrel. Without the capital injection by limited liability companies the promises made by unlimited liability individuals — the names who, to that point, provided all the capital backing at Lloyd's — would almost certainly have foundered.

Today's debate pitches traditionalist names against upstart forces in companies — corporate members. It is a test of strength, and the prize is control of the world's most famous insurance market. Having brought Lloyd's through its darkest hours, this is about which group lives on to take the profits.

More narrowly, the argument is about operating costs. Figures published yesterday show that Lloyd's members together made record profits of £1.7 billion in 1995, the most recent year for which finalised



### AN HISTORIC INSTITUTION

THE attraction of Lloyd's, indeed the attraction of providing capital backing to any insurance operation, is simple. If the underwriting calculations are correct, one chunk of capital can earn two sets of returns. If the calculations are precise the cost of meeting insurance claims, and of funding the capital providers' first slice of return, is settled from the flow of premiums.

If the calculations are precise there is no recourse to the actual assets of capital providers. The assets can remain invested to earn the second slug of return.

The beauty of insurance schemes was realised early. The first reference to Edward Lloyd's City of London coffee house — where the first insurance arrangements for marine merchant adventures were organised — appeared in 1688. Between 1688 and 1689 the market developed in size and scope. Acts of Parliament legitimised and formalised its existence.

Symbiotic relationships grew between capital providers (names), the professional insurance risk assessors (underwriters) and the agents acting as go-betweens. Safely net arrangements were also put in place.

From time to time losses were incurred. But none on the scale of those seen between 1989 and 1993. Compensation payments for asbestosis, hurricane damage claims and the cost of cleaning up after the Exxon Valdez oil tanker disaster were only the best-known of the unexpected and costly catastrophes to feed back to Lloyd's.

The bill came to £7.9 billion and threatened to destroy the 300-year-old institution because the fears were that the capital backers would be wiped out. However, corporate capital backers and the reconstruction and renewal plan ensured survival.

numbers are collated. But the administrative cost of delivering this profit was £508 million — operating costs cut a 30 per cent hole in profits.

Naturally everyone agrees that costs need to be controlled and brought down. Lloyd's must, as all protagonists repeat in mantra-like tones, become more efficient if it wants to remain a force to be reckoned with in the global insurance market. But how to reduce costs? And is it possible to reduce costs without destroying the very things that

keep Lloyd's distinctive and able to earn profit?

Names fear that the upstarts want to see them banished. The more aggressive agents of change would concede that the traditionalists' fears are about right. More conciliatory voices, however, contend that there is no anti-name agenda. They say it is simply wise to look ahead, to examine the options. According to them, no decisions have been taken, it is just the duty of all those interested in the long-term prosperity of Lloyd's to be

aware of realities and to prepare for what the future might bring.

Max Taylor, the chairman of Lloyd's, and Ron Sandler, chief executive, are being cast as villains by some more excitable names. They themselves, however, stoutly resist accusations that they are manoeuvring to oust the individuals on whose wealth Lloyd's has depended for most of its life.

It was, however, a speech that Mr Sandler gave last month to the Association of Lloyd's Names, the lobby

group that is identified as the source of the latest disquiet. Close aides say that Mr Sandler was doing nothing more than attempting to kick-start a debate. But whatever Mr Sandler's true motivation, the speech has been used by some as an excuse to agitate for fundamental change.

Particular attention has been focused on the concept of the "annual venture", the annual renegotiation of contracts between providers of capital — names and corporate members — and the professional market

operatives, the underwriters. For reformists, the annual venture negotiations occur with annoying frequency, take several months to complete and interrupt income-generating activities. And then there is the cost, reported to be £117 million a year.

But the more fundamental objection to change lies not in the monetary analysis. The annual venture is so-called because individuals venture, or risk, their money on an annual basis. Worries are that if the annual venture is taken away, the ability of individual names to participate in the Lloyd's insurance market will also be undermined. They may be willing to stake their entire wealth in the insurance market, but they can only do that for finite periods of time.

It is galling, to say the least, for individual names to have to contemplate extinction. They bore the brunt of the financial pain incurred in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Surely, they say, they deserve better. Perhaps they do, but there is more to the defence of the old ways than arguments about heritage and obligation.

Individual names bring a quality of loyalty that is easy to scorn, particularly in the prosperous times. But without it, Lloyd's may lose a great part of its spirit, and with its spirit goes its uniqueness. Corporate members, they of limited liability who are driven by little more than the profit principle, may not be as willing to defend the integrity of Lloyd's as those individuals who did so in the past.

Without integrity of the sort shown by individual names, the insurance market may not be able to survive runs of catastrophic losses. More to the point in the context of how Lloyd's positions itself for the future, integrity underpins the whole concept of buying insurance. Why should anyone buy insurance from people who break promises?

Names point to the failure of the corporate insurance markets that used to exist in New York, Chicago and Miami as evidence that the arrivistes, in an attempt to throw out the bathwater, will also lose both the baby and the bath tub.

There is a certain air pervading the avant garde Lime Street building that suggests reform is inevitable and that the corporate members will win the day. But unless compromise is found, and change is only undertaken carefully, the upstarts may find they reform themselves out of existence.

# Donation U-turn

WILLIAMS, one of the most supportive of companies to the Tories in the past, has decided to abandon political contributions for the time being — a decision that does not seem to have had the full support of its chairman, Sir Nigel Rudd.

The timing is peculiar, too, because the power to make political donations has just been extended for five years by the shareholders at last annual meeting. Yet the report and accounts show no payment for this year, against £25,000 to the Tories last



Sir Nigel Rudd would have liked to continue donations to Tories

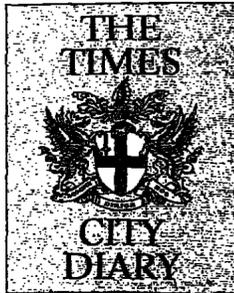
time. I ring Rudd, a Tory party stalwart. "This is a board decision. We took the power at the last AGM to make donations for the next five years. The board chose this year not to make one. That doesn't mean we won't make one next year."

The reason was confidential, he said, but added: "I went along with it in the end." I must deduce that the other directors didn't see much point in wasting the money, with the Tories in the wilderness for a few years, but loyalty counted for more with Rudd. Just supposition; but at least it wasn't one of those stomach-turning May 2 defections to the flag of new Labour.

RUMOURS that John Mayo, GEC finance director, may be the next to walk out of the Newcastle United board after the football club's traumas of the past few weeks look close to the truth. Someone asked him recently why on earth he agreed to become a non-executive director. "Well, I joined it because I thought it would be fun," he replied. "It's not."

### Debt delusions

I HAVE been told to go easy on the Rt Rev Hugh Montefiore, former Bishop of Birmingham, who is generally



a good thing, my man in the vestry tells me, even if he is redder than Red Ken himself. He is in the latest issue of *Chartered Banker*, driving the money lenders from the temple and telling bankers they are "sinful and immoral". Montefiore is throwing his support behind the Christian Aid campaign to reduce Third World debt by the end of the century, which is fair enough, I suppose.

But he also wants a sort of two-tier interest rate structure so those already in hock pay less than the rest of us. "Would it not be possible for a poor person in debt to be charged at a special preferential rate?" he asks members of the Chartered Institute of Bankers. Otherwise, "a wealthy institution would be taking advantage of a person's powerlessness and pov-

erty". Montefiore's family has been involved in banking for half a millennium, he says. Long enough to learn that one does not discourage people from getting into debt by promising them even cheaper credit in future.

MARTIN TAYLOR, chief executive of Barclays, will stand up today and launch a new initiative from the bank. All terribly hush-hush until then, so because I enjoy spoiling these things (and I don't like banks much more than the Rt Rev does) I will point out that it is the launch of a new direct-selling operation.

This will be named B2, as in B-squared. It is a brand name that has been used before. Barclays' bold new initiative will share a name with a chain of downmarket convenience stores owned by Budgens, or alternatively, an American bomber with a rather checkered history. The one that was supposed to be radar-proof, only it didn't work when it was raining. It won't fly, Martin.

### In the bag

WE ARE getting close to a positive ID of at least one of the freezer-baggers, that strange tribe who go around to shareholder meetings and scoop up the free food and drink into bags brought along for the purpose. Such locust-like visitations have plagued a number of gatherings this season, and they seem to be getting worse. An honest and outraged

shareholder writes to say that the ringleader, who I assume to be the flord-fac'd one in his sixties, is a retired British Rail employee living in the Newcastle area. He therefore has a free travel pass which is of great use on his raids.

I last reported him limiting himself to two buns at SmithKline Beecham, but my informant says this was because he had already demolished anything in his path at the Lasno meeting the same day. "There is no city or town or hamlet, no hotel, dining hall or banqueting centre that can fortify itself against this man's freezer bag," he says.

MARTIN WALLER



"You don't have to convert his pocket money into euros"

### BUSINESS LETTERS

#### Competent advisers at point of sale offer best protection to consumer

From the Director-General of The Chartered Insurance Institute

product ensues that it will never be mis-sold.

The favoured descriptors for any benchmarked product have emerged as simplicity, flexibility, portability, value for money. Any regulatory endorsement or quality mark for a product could be interpreted by the public as a regulator's (and governmental) guarantee. It could actually encourage customers who act without advice to buy unsuitable products, in the expectation of a bail-out when the mispurchase becomes inconvenient.

Simplifying the product does not change the individuality and complexity of personal situations. Thus advice will still be necessary. Competent advisers at the point of sale are the best protection for the consumer, the product provider and the regulator.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID BLAND,  
Director-General,  
The Chartered Insurance Institute,  
20 Aldermanbury,  
EC2V 7HY.

#### Blurred judgment in analysing book's value

From Nick Land

Sir, Never judge a book by its cover, unless you are a City editor.

Your City Diary on Tuesday April 28 ("Double entry") shows how scant attention to the content of a book can lead one to make serious misjudgments about its value.

You claimed that *Blur: the speed of change in the connected economy* written by Ernst & Young management gurus Chris Meyer and Stan Davis (Capstone, £16.99) was indistinguishable from the other titles mentioned in the Diary and unlikely to be read by anyone — you advised all

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# Equities reverse early gains

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

## ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
45	33	B&W Corp	34	+	10.8
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## BANKS

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
10.00	9.00	ABN-AMRO	9.50	+	12.5
10.00	9.00	ABN-AMRO	9.50	+	12.5

## BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
110	105	Bevco	108	+	20.0
110	105	Bevco	108	+	20.0

## BUILDING MATERIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
20	18	Anglo	19	+	15.0
20	18	Anglo	19	+	15.0

## CHEMICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
100	90	Alcon	95	+	18.0
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## CONSTRUCTION

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High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
111	109	Anglo	110	+	15.0

### LONGS (over 15 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
111	109	Anglo	110	+	15.0

### UNLISTED

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
111	109	Anglo	110	+	15.0

### INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
111	109	Anglo	110	+	15.0

### INSURANCE

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
111	109	Anglo	110	+	15.0

### MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
111	109	Anglo	110	+	15.0

## OTHER FINANCIAL

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
100	90	Alcon	95	+	18.0

## PHARMACEUTICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
100	90	Alcon	95	+	18.0

## PRINTING & PAPER

High	Low	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
100	90	Alcon	95	+	18.0

## PROPERTY

High	Low
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DANCE  
Debra Crane

B

FLN  
Wendy Brown

# A grand idea let down by details

## Would John Ruskin have praised the library Lancaster University has spent five years building in his name? Yes and no, says Marcus Binney

The new Ruskin Library at Lancaster University is a flawed diamond — magical, mesmerising, mysterious, constantly changing in the light, but with blemishes in both execution and design that cloud its brilliance. The library opens this week after five years in the making.

Richard MacCormac, the architect, is likely nonetheless to be forgiven these failings for three reasons. First, he has provided Lancaster University with the trophy building it wanted, a landmark that catches the eye of everyone arriving at the university. Secondly, MacCormac's inspired handling of materials and original palette of colours make such an overwhelming first impression that they distract from the boded work of the builders (which would surely have driven Ruskin himself to paroxysms of fury). And thirdly, the library has in Stephen Wildman (organiser of the major Burne-Jones show soon to open in New York) a curator capable of mounting exhibitions that are stimulating enough to distract from any practical shortcomings of the galleries.

The new library stands in caslet-like isolation, approached, like Ruskin's beloved Venice, along a causeway across what will soon be a sea of waving blue-green grass. Its principal purpose is to house a Treasury of Ruskin manuscripts, watercolours and drawings. To do this, MacCormac has created a building within a building, an arc or giant chest, the colour of shot red velvet, that towers above you as soon as you are through the massive doors.

The effect is transfixing. The banking walls are dark and sloping, as if built of black Egyptian marble. Closer to the texture is more like that of suede, an effect MacCormac has achieved by sealing black pigmented render with coats of linseed oil.

The true brilliance lies in the way MacCormac achieves the sense of infinity through the use of multiple reflections, seen at their very best after dark. Look up and the building continues to rise above the massive pairs of grit-blasted beams, the precise level of the ceiling being concealed by the clever use of light from hidden clerestories.

Look down and, more disturbingly, you find the solid slabs of grey-green slate on which you stand alternate

with sheets of clear glass. You look through this glass to apparently cavernous depths, for the black floor of the cellar below is invisible and what you see is a reflection of the lofty roof.

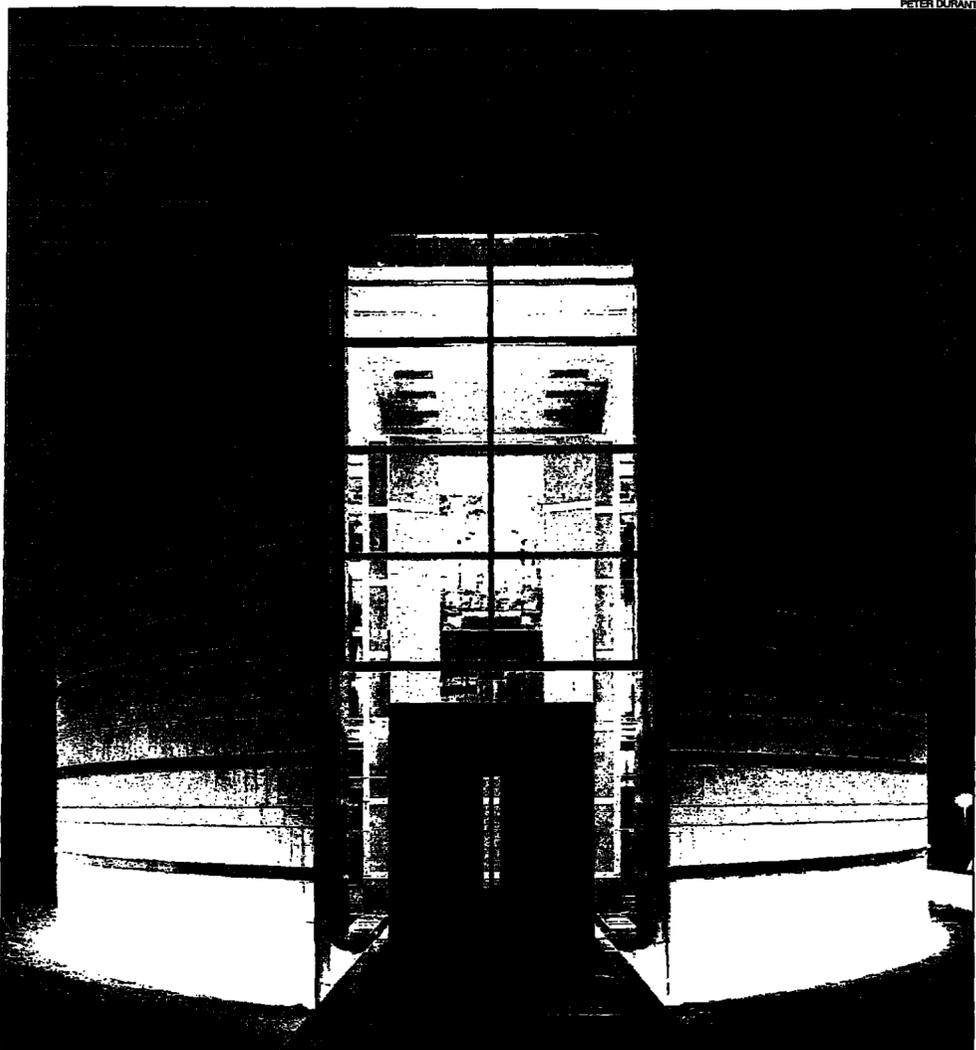
The Treasury is faced in waxed and polished Venetian plaster, framed in oak carefully chosen for its grain and studded with small gleaming bronze crosses, which add to the church-like feel. A large opening in front of the Treasury, guarded by massive shutters, evokes a medieval altar triptych, and contains a glass panel etched in a manner suggestive of floating pools of mercury. This was designed by Alex Beleshchenko and inspired by a daguerreotype of the north-west portal of St Mark's, taken for Ruskin and now in the archive.

It is only as you look carefully that the numerous blemishes become apparent: the dirt, glue or paste trapped between the floor glass and its framing — to be compounded by the grit brought in on people's shoes — which is already scratching the surface of the glass, or the chips in the black render which is not strong enough to be brought to a dagger point beside the stairs.

MacCormac may be willing to live with such rapid ageing, but it leaves the occupants with a dreadful dilemma. Should every sheet of glass, each section of bronze hand-rail be polished several times a day (it's really a job for the crew of *Britannia*), in order to remove fingermarks and



Mackintosh-like: a study area in the library



Lancaster University's Ruskin Library at night: "magical, mesmerising, mysterious... but with blemishes in execution and design"

scuffing? Or can the interior survive on a thrice-weekly swab down by the university cleaning staff?

One half of the building is the mirror of the other. Twin stairs, hugging the curved walls, lead to galleries which are dominated by large oak portals, like cupboard doors with out doors. These create powerful rhythms, especially when seen reflected in the glass-enclosed bridges that connect the galleries.

At either end, very tall glass windows allow light to pour into the building, although the shafts of morning sun in the northern gallery are clearly too strong for watercolours which will need shielding. At the west end, MacCormac provides a commanding view across green fields to the Morecambe estuary, which would be a fine tribute to the Saviour of Coniston if a large pylon were not in full view.

More successful is the cross-vesta along the glass-sided bridges aligned on two Japanese-style glass slits at either end. To control daylight, MacCormac has provided these slits with giant shutters, just 6in wide and some 20ft tall — which are already beginning to warp.

The Reading Room has a Mackintosh-like brilliance with tall-back chairs, ergonomically shaped for extra comfort, and handsome oak and walnut chequer-patterned tables.

The Heritage Lottery Fund, which has put £2.3 million into the building, has naturally insisted on full provision for the disabled. But money is no more the sole solution to this than to any other problem. Inside, to preserve symmetry, there are chairlifts on both stairs, but a person arriving alone in a wheelchair cannot possibly open the heavy bronze-clad aluminium entrance doors. Furthermore, there is no bell to summon attention.

Ruskin ranks with Tenyson, Carlyle, Dickens and Morris as one of the most eminent of Victorian Victorians. Wildman says: "Victorians knew of Darwin but Ruskin they had actually read. He appealed to the solid core of religious minded people."

Today, Ruskin's writings appeal to students of English, an anthology as much as to art lovers. He deserves recognition, too, as the founding father of the preservation of both architecture and landscape. He inspired the founders of the National Trust and stopped the destruction of Byzantine mosaics in St Mark's. The new galleries will show that, at his best, he was one of the great artists of the 19th century. Whatever its shortcomings, MacCormac's new library will open a new era in the appreciation of a great English genius.

## GREAT BRITISH HOPES Rising stars in the arts firmament THOMAS DE KEYSER

Age: 15.  
Profession: Aspiring songwriter.

Aspiring? Well, he still has school lessons to worry about. But that hasn't stopped him composing *The Lion's Tale*, an adaptation of C.S. Lewis's *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*. Songs from the show have just been premiered in his home town of Kidderminster.

Musical theatre is his first love, then? He was bitten by the bug at the age of 12, after seeing Willy Russell's *Blood Brothers*. He was so taken by the show that he rang impresario Bill Kenwright's office in the hope of tracking down Russell's phone number, and the playwright just happened to be there at the time.

What did Russell have to offer? Some typically nonsense advice: "Stop talking about it and just go and do it — it's as simple as that."

Does he play any instruments? Oh, only the piano, double-bass, trombone and guitar. And he sings too.

Any normal schoolboyish pursuits? He was football mad at one point, so much so that he wouldn't even touch the piano at his lessons. His music teacher spent two months filling in a pool coupon with him each week until she finally won him over again.

What do his schoolfriends think about his early acclaim? "They've been great. They come up to me and say "Congratulations, and can we be in it when it goes to the West End?"



CLIVE DAVIS

## Honest triumph

IS THE finale of Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony to be interpreted as genuine optimism or false rejoicing? A reading as convincing as that of Mark Wigglesworth with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, taken together with recent writing on the subject, seems to make an unanswerable case for the former.

The Russian musicologist Manashir Jakubov marginalises Cold War rhetoric and propaganda, quoting the composer more reliably. The main idea of the Fifth Symphony, according to Shostakovich, "is the sufferings of mankind and an all-affirming optimism".

Wigglesworth's account drew its authority from his grasp of both sides of the equation. The sufferings were in evidence from the start, in the sense of desolation and spiritual anguish conjured in the opening movement. Not until the entry of savagely rasping horns was the spell broken, ensuring that the inevitable climax was all the more oppressive. In the Scherzo, too, the parody was sharpened by the tightly coiled rhythms.

It is the Largo, however, that represents the emotional core of the work, and here the elegiac outpouring seemed to reach into the very soul of the Russian people. A palpable rise of tension in the finale was a clear signal of Wiggles-

CONCERT  
LPO/Wigglesworth  
Festival Hall

worth's intentions, and the absence of histrionics in the coda substantiated the view that the optimism expressed so forthrightly here is to be taken seriously. It was Wigglesworth's triumph to suggest that only a superficial performance could imply otherwise.

From the LPO, giving its last concert of the season before decamping to Glyndebourne, Wigglesworth secured dynamic intense performances also of Webern's *Pastorale* and Brahms's Violin Concerto. The former ran the gamut from opulent Straussian lyricism to vehement expressionism (rarely more frenziedly communicated), while the latter matched perfectly the approach of soloist Joshua Bell.

Just as Wigglesworth highlighted details such as the bassoon and horn accompaniment to the Adagio's oboe solo, lending the passage a richness and multi-dimensionality, so Bell projected an animated and formidably concentrated reading of the solo part.

BARRY MILLINGTON

## Tuned into Whitehall

Even Isaiah Berlin didn't do it. Bryan Magee could well have one in him, but it hasn't come out yet. Roger Scruton, on the other hand, has written an opera. Enough of Art and Imagination: enough of the Aesthetics of Music. It was time for the real thing. Scruton had an idea, failed to interest any composer in it, and so, with characteristic determination, rolled up his sleeves and got on with it.

*The Minister*, a one-acter about a politician who exchanges love for power and meets his nemesis, has been performed twice in Prague, but its English premiere took place on May Day at the

OPERA  
*The Minister*  
Oxford

Holywell Music Room. Its six scenes unfold in hauntings and in masks: the Britten of *Curlew River* and *The Turn of the Screw* is irresistibly invoked. But Scruton, whose music is tonal and — you've guessed it — partial to the odd leitmotif, is a diligent and sometimes daring pupil.

A single dinner party at which the Minister's masked guests, Sir Henry and Lady Milhouse, are revealed (or imagined in his psyche) as former abandoned lovers, yields some robust and eloquent solo writing, fluently if conservatively folded into and out of ensemble. And these centrepieces are framed by ministerial soliloquies with a view to the sea: the 16-piece band, conducted by Jonathan Williams, enjoys its floating, shimmering echoes of *Costa fan tutte*.

Scruton's libretto deals trenchantly with social title-tattle, guilt, forgiveness; and his score responds with a passing Elgarian ache, a heady Straussian waltz, dislocated by dissonance and dry rhythm. Given the record of this ministerial cad (tenor Mark Milhofer in fine form), the squirm factor is pretty low. His opening soliloquy is over-long, and his confrontation with poor gay William (Tim Armstrong-Taylor) is unsubtly handled. And when he finally sees in his young servant (Sarah Wright) his mistress Olga's unborn child, this is perhaps one turn of the screw too many. But for most of its 60 minutes *The Minister* is a disarmingly unpretentious and often artful piece of writing.

HILARY FINCH

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European Law Report

European Commission ban on UK beef is valid

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland v Commission of the European Communities (supported by Council of the European Union)

Case C-180/96

Regina v Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and Another, Ex parte National Farmer's Union and Others (Anglo Dutch Meat Exporters Ltd and Others, intervenors)

Case C-157/96

Before G. C. Rodríguez Iglesias, President and Judges C. Gulmann, H. Ragnemalm, M. Wathelet, R. Schintgen, G. F. Mancini, J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, J. L. Murray, D. A. O. Edward, J. P. Püschner, G. Hirsch, P. Jann and L. Sevón

Advocate General G. Tesauro

(Opinions September 30, 1997)

(Judgments May 5)

In seeking, by a decision in 1996, to contain mad cow disease within the territory of the United Kingdom by banning the export of certain animals, meat and derived products from the United Kingdom to other member states and third countries, the Commission of the European Communities did not clearly exceed its discretion, abuse its powers or breach the principle of proportionality.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held, inter alia, when, in Case C-180/96, dismissing an application by the United Kingdom under article 173 of the EC Treaty for annulment of the Commission Decision 96/239/EC of March 27, 1996 on emergency measures to protect against bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) (OJ 1996 L78 p47), and, in Case C-157/96, giving a preliminary ruling on a reference under article 177 of the Treaty by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court on the question

whether article 1 of the decision was valid.

BSE, one of a group of diseases characterised by brain degeneration which included Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, a disease which affected humans, was first detected in the United Kingdom in 1986. Its probable origin was thought to have been a change in the method of preparing cattle feed containing proteins derived from carcasses of sheep affected by scrapie.

In order to combat BSE, the United Kingdom adopted a number of measures including, in 1988, a ban on the sale or use of cattle feed containing proteins derived from ruminants, and in 1989, a ban on the sale or use of specified bovine offal, presumed to contain the infection. Various protective measures were also taken by the Commission between 1989 and 1995.

In a statement of March 20, 1996, the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC), an independent scientific body which advised the United Kingdom Government, referred to 10 cases of a variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease identified in people aged under 42.

It stated: "Although there is no direct evidence of a link, on current data and in the absence of any credible alternative the most likely explanation at present is that these cases are linked to exposure to BSE before the introduction of the specified offal ban in 1989."

On March 27 the Commission adopted the decision, which was based on the Treaty and on, inter alia, Council Directive 90/425/EEC of June 26, 1990 concerning veterinary and zootechnical checks applicable in intra-Community trade in certain live animals and products with a view to the completion of the internal market (OJ 1990 L224 p1).

The Commission also adopted Directive 96/662/EEC of December 11, 1996 concerning veterinary checks in intra-Community trade with a view to the completion of the internal market (OJ 1996 L274 p1).

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checks in intra-Community trade with a view to the completion of the internal market (OJ 1969 L395 p13), as amended.

Article 1 of Decision 96/239 provided: "Pending an overall examination of the situation, the United Kingdom shall not export from its territory to any third country: live bovine animals, their semen and embryos; meat of bovine animals slaughtered in the United Kingdom; products obtained from bovine animals slaughtered in the United Kingdom; ruminant-derived meat meal and bone-meal."

In its judgment in Case C-180/96 the Court of Justice held: "The United Kingdom also applied for annulment of various statements of position made by the Commission. For reasons given by the court, that application was not admissible.

As to the decision, the United Kingdom advanced a number of pleas in law. Lack of competence on the part of the Commission. To determine whether, in adopting the decision, the Commission acted within the framework of the powers conferred by Directives 90/425 and 96/662, it was necessary to inquire whether the conditions governing the adoption of safeguard measures in accordance with those directives were fulfilled; whether it was open to the Commission to ban exports; whether that ban could extend to third countries; and whether the Commission acted with a view to achieving an objective other than that laid down, thereby missing its powers.

Article 10(1) of Directive 90/425 and article 9(1) of Directive 96/662 provided that the adoption of safeguard measures was permitted where there was an "outbreak of any zoonoses, diseases or other

cause likely to constitute a serious hazard to animals or to human health". The question was, in particular, whether SEAC's announcement that BSE was the most likely explanation for the outbreak of the new variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease justified the adoption of safeguard measures, given, inter alia, that BSE had already existed for a number of years.

The objective of the directives was to enable the Commission to intervene rapidly in order to prevent the propagation of a disease affecting animals or a threat to human health. It would be contrary to that objective if the Commission were to be precluded from adopting measures in response to the publication of new material significantly altering what was known about a disease, on the ground that the disease had been in existence for a long time.

Despite the fact that BSE previously existed, the new information provided by SEAC significantly altered the perception of the risk which that disease represented for human health, and thus authorised the Commission to adopt safeguard measures in accordance with the directives.

As to the Commission's powers, the directives were drafted in very wide terms: they authorised the Commission to adopt necessary measures without imposing any restrictions as to the temporal or territorial scope of those measures. The objective provisions of the directives showed that the immobilisation of animals and/or products and their containment within a specified territory could constitute an appropriate measure.

In order for such containment to be effective, it might in some cases be necessary to impose a total ban on the movement of animals and products outside the frontiers of a member state, thereby affecting

them had any direct bearing on this problem. "It seems clear that the mere issue of a writ claiming forfeiture of a lease does not bring about a forfeiture. On the other hand, there is authority for saying that as soon as such a writ is served, there is a forfeiture, though not until judgment will it be determined whether the forfeiture was justified."

He observed, at (p75): "There are, of course, curiosities in the status of a forfeited lease which is the subject of an application for relief against forfeiture. Until the application has been decided, it will not be known whether the lease will remain forfeited or whether it will be restored as if it had never been forfeited."

"But there are many other instances of such uncertainties. When the validity of a notice to quit is in dispute, until that issue is resolved it will not be known whether the tenancy has ended or whether it still exists."

"The tenancy has a trace-like existence pendente lite: none can say with assurance whether it is alive or dead. The status of a forfeited underlease which is the subject of an application for relief seems to me to be not dissimilar; at least it cannot be said to be dead without hope of resurrection."

Section 212 of the Common Law Procedure Act 1852 provided: "If the tenant or his assignee do or shall, at any time before the trial in such ejectment, pay or tender to the

lessor or landlord ... or pay into court where the same cause is depending, all the rent and arrears, together with the costs then and in such case all further proceedings in the said ejectment shall cease and be discontinued; and if such lessee, his executors, administrators, or assigns, shall upon such proceedings as aforesaid, be relieved in equity, he and they shall have, hold, and enjoy the demised lands, according to the lease thereof made, without any new lease."

By section 1 of the Common Law Procedure Act 1852 jurisdiction was conferred on common-law courts to grant relief in summary manner: "... subject to the same terms and conditions in all respects as to payment of rent, costs and otherwise as in the Court of Chancery."

When it was decided to give county courts power to give summary relief from forfeiture by section 52 of the County Courts Amendment Act 1856, that Act largely followed the language used in section 212 of the 1852 Act.

Section 52 of the 1856 Act provided that if the order of the court was not obeyed, the court at the instance of the plaintiff might issue a warrant for the bailiff to give possession to the plaintiff: "... and the plaintiff shall from the time of the execution of such warrant hold the premises discharged of the tenancy, and the defendant and his assigns, by, through or under him shall

not be shown to be the proceeds of criminality or turpitude. Mr Frank submitted that section 16 did not apply in circumstances where the defendant had come into some money or other assets after a confiscation order was initially made.

He submitted that the legislation was intended to deprive a defendant of the benefits of drug dealing, but not to prevent him engaging in commerce until he had satisfied the order; in the absence of clear words section 16 should not be construed as referring to assets which were subsequently acquired honestly.

The assets to which dispute had been directed were an unencumbered freehold interest in relation to property valued at £300,000, a BMW motor car valued at £20,000, a bank account in the appellant's name into which a credit of some £70,000 had been paid on March 6, 1996, part of which had been withdrawn.

Mr Mitchell submitted that the words of section 16 were apt to embrace that property, whether or not it had accrued to the appellant by honest means. It was undoubtedly, as was common ground, property which accrued to the appellant after the initial confiscation order was made, and it was common ground that the prosecution could not prove that it resulted from either a transaction or any other form of dishonesty.

On the question of statutory construction, the legislation relating to drug dealing, now principally enshrined in the Drug Trafficking Act 1994, was draconian. His Lordship said it was intended to strip those who dealt in drugs of any possible profit from so dealing by depriving them of their realisable assets, whether or not those were the proceeds of drug trafficking, up to the amount by which they had benefited from drug dealing.

The strip process had to involve three stages, and might involve a fourth. They were: 1 The court decided if the defendant had benefited from drug trafficking; section 2(2) of the 1994

Act. 2 The court assessed the value of the proceeds of drug trafficking; section 4. 3 The court decided on the amount of a confiscation order; section 5. That, apart from gifts which were not presently material, would not exceed the total value of the defendant's realisable property at the time the confiscation order was made; section 6. If that value at the time the order was made was less than the defendant's benefit from drug trafficking, the court had to certify that value as the amount of his monthly pension.

Section 15 of the 1984 Act provides: "(1) Subject to subsection (2), a county court shall have jurisdiction to determine any question as to the amount of a pension payable under a contract of insurance or annuity. (2) Where a person is entitled to a benefit ... payable out of their superannuation fund, an administering authority are to decide the amount of the benefit."

Section 15(1) of the 1984 Act provides: "(1) Subject to subsection (2), a county court shall have jurisdiction to determine any question as to the amount of a pension payable under a contract of insurance or annuity. (2) Where a person is entitled to a benefit ... payable out of their superannuation fund, an administering authority are to decide the amount of the benefit."

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Section 15(10) of the 1984 Act provides: "(10) Where a person is entitled to a benefit ... payable out of their superannuation fund, an administering authority are to decide the amount of the benefit."

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Section 15(18) of the 1984 Act provides: "(18) Where a person is entitled to a benefit ... payable out of their superannuation fund, an administering authority are to decide the amount of the benefit."

Section 15(19) of the 1984 Act provides: "(19) Where a person is entitled to a benefit ... payable out of their superannuation fund, an administering authority are to decide the amount of the benefit."

Section 15(20) of the 1984 Act provides: "(20) Where a person is entitled to a benefit ... payable out of their superannuation fund, an administering authority are to decide the amount of the benefit."

Section 15(21) of the 1984 Act provides: "(21) Where a person is entitled to a benefit ... payable out of their superannuation fund, an administering authority are to decide the amount of the benefit."

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Section 15(25) of the 1984 Act provides: "(25) Where a person is entitled to a benefit ... payable out of their superannuation fund, an administering authority are to decide the amount of the benefit."

concern as to the risk of transmissibility of BSE to humans, and no other material before the Court supported the argument that the Commission's exclusive or main purpose was an economic measure rather than to protect health.

Proportionality. The United Kingdom put forward a number of arguments alleging breach of the principle of proportionality. That principle required that measures adopted by Community institutions did not exceed the limits of what was appropriate and necessary in order to attain the objectives legitimately pursued by the legislation; when there was a choice between several appropriate measures, recourse must be had to the least onerous, and the disadvantages caused must not be disproportionate to the aims pursued.

Since, in matters concerning the common agricultural policy, Community legislation had a discretionary power which corresponded to the political responsibilities given to it by articles 40 and 43 of the Treaty, the legality of a measure adopted in that sphere could not be judged as if the measure was manifestly inappropriate having regard to the objective pursued.

At the time the decision was adopted, there was great uncertainty as to the risks posed by live animals, bovine meat and derived products. When there was uncertainty as to the existence of a risk to human health, the institutions could take protective measures without having to wait until the reality and seriousness of those risks became fully apparent.

The decision was adopted as an emergency measure, temporarily suspending the normal rules of the common agricultural policy, and the Commission acknowledged the need to review

the decision following an overall examination of the situation (seventh recital). Because the disease had a long incubation period, all animals aged six months or more had to be treated as potentially infected with BSE, even if they showed no signs of the disease.

Although special measures had been adopted in the United Kingdom relating to the slaughtering of animals and the cutting of meat, it was only from May 1995 that unannounced visits were made to United Kingdom undertakings to check compliance with those measures.

Those checks revealed that a significant proportion of slaughterhouses were failing to comply with the legislation. Moreover, it appeared from reports of the Scientific Veterinary Committee that meat invariably contained some residual nervous and lymphatic tissues, and that it was not possible, on the basis of available scientific data, to exclude the risk of transmission of the infection through meat muscle.

The ban on exports of bovine meat could therefore be regarded as a manifestly appropriate measure. For reasons stated by it, the court held that the ban on the export of live animals, semen and embryos, and other products such as tallow and gelatine, were similarly not manifestly inappropriate.

The United Kingdom suggested possible alternative measures, but in view of the seriousness of the risk and the urgency of the situation, the Commission did not react in a manifestly inappropriate fashion by imposing, on a temporary basis and pending the production of more detailed scientific information, a general ban on exports of bovine animals, bovine meat and derived products.

The decision was adopted as an emergency measure, temporarily suspending the normal rules of the common agricultural policy, and the Commission acknowledged the need to review

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Court of Appeal

Maryland Estates Ltd v Joseph

Before Lord Justice Beldam and Mrs Justice Braconell

[Reasons April 23]

On a true construction of section 138(3) of the County Courts Act 1984 the words "... all the rent in arrears ..." refer not only to the rent in arrears at the time of service of a writ of possession by a lessor against a lessee of premises for non-payment of rent but also sums falling due after the service of the summons for use and occupation and claimed as mesne profits.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by a landlord, Maryland Estates Ltd, from an order of Judge Diamond, QC, on October 17, 1997, at Central London County Court, affirming a decision of Deputy District Judge Clapham, made on January 9, 1997, which had considered that he had no power under section 138(3) of the 1984 Act to order the tenants, Mr and Mrs Bar Joseph, to pay more than the arrears of rent of £2,791.93, the sum due at the date of the writ because of the words in subsection (3) "... all the rent in arrears ..." referred to the rent due at the date of service of the writ and not to the mesne profits, which, totalled £5,958.90, together with interest.

Mr Nicholas Dowling, QC, for the landlords, Mr Arthur J Moore for the second defendant, Mrs Freda Bar Joseph.

Section 138(3) of the County Courts Act 1984 provides: "(3) The court may also order the defendant to pay to the plaintiff the amount of any sums due to the plaintiff in respect of the premises in question at the date of the writ of possession, together with interest."

The court for possession made by the deputy judge and affirmed by Judge Diamond referred only to the non-payment of £2,791.93. Underlying the controversy was the question which had been considered by the courts from time to time, of the effect of the exercise by a landlord of his right to claim possession of a forfeited underlease under the lease and the status of the lease after service on the tenants of a writ claiming possession.

In *Meadows v Clerical Medical and General Life Assurance Society* [1981] Ch 70, 74 Sir Robert Goff, LC, said: "A number of authorities were discussed in argument, but none of them had any direct bearing on this problem."

"It seems clear that the mere issue of a writ claiming forfeiture of a lease does not bring about a forfeiture. On the other hand, there is authority for saying that as soon as such a writ is served, there is a forfeiture, though not until judgment will it be determined whether the forfeiture was justified."

He observed, at (p75): "There are, of course, curiosities in the status of a forfeited lease which is the subject of an application for relief against forfeiture. Until the application has been decided, it will not be known whether the lease will remain forfeited or whether it will be restored as if it had never been forfeited."

"But there are many other instances of such uncertainties. When the validity of a notice to quit is in dispute, until that issue is resolved it will not be known whether the tenancy has ended or whether it still exists."

"The tenancy has a trace-like existence pendente lite: none can say with assurance whether it is alive or dead. The status of a forfeited underlease which is the subject of an application for relief seems to me to be not dissimilar; at least it cannot be said to be dead without hope of resurrection."

Section 212 of the Common Law Procedure Act 1852 provided: "If the tenant or his assignee do or shall, at any time before the trial in such ejectment, pay or tender to the

lessor or landlord ... or pay into court where the same cause is depending, all the rent and arrears, together with the costs then and in such case all further proceedings in the said ejectment shall cease and be discontinued; and if such lessee, his executors, administrators, or assigns, shall upon such proceedings as aforesaid, be relieved in equity, he and they shall have, hold, and enjoy the demised lands, according to the lease thereof made, without any new lease."

By section 1 of the Common Law Procedure Act 1852 jurisdiction was conferred on common-law courts to grant relief in summary manner: "... subject to the same terms and conditions in all respects as to payment of rent, costs and otherwise as in the Court of Chancery."

When it was decided to give county courts power to give summary relief from forfeiture by section 52 of the County Courts Amendment Act 1856, that Act largely followed the language used in section 212 of the 1852 Act

# Inside the Russia house

The Crown Estate has ambitious plans to upgrade one of Kensington's prime streets, says Rachel Kelly

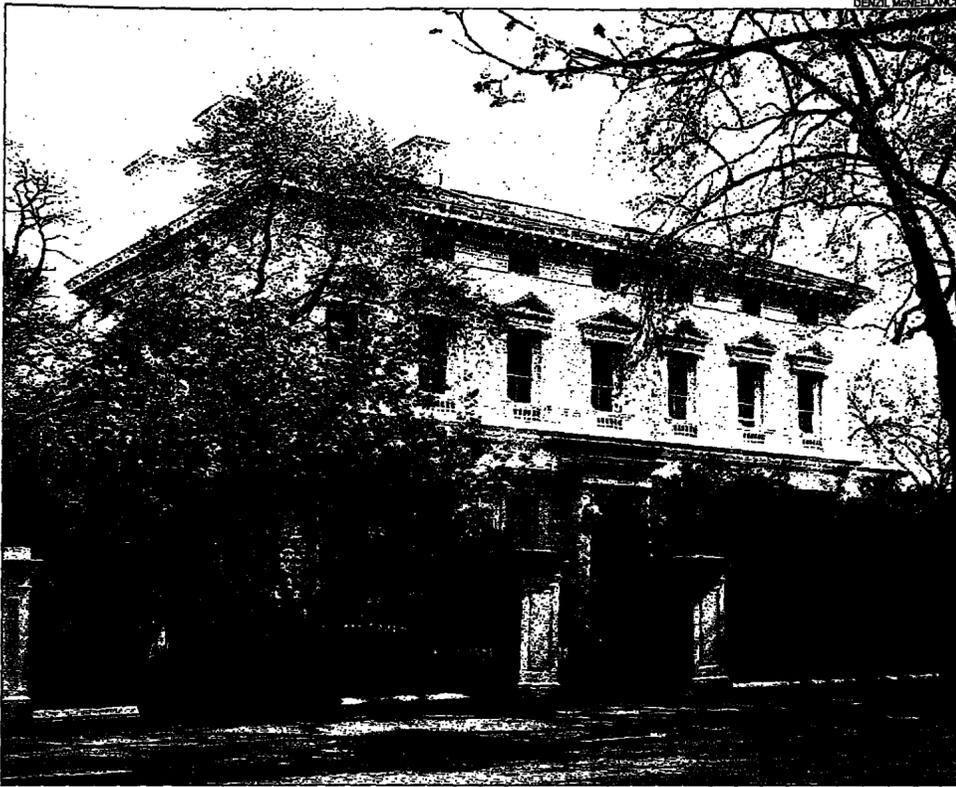
The last Russian diplomats have packed away their brown macs and infra-red binoculars and abandoned one of London's finest buildings. No 15, Kensington Palace Gardens, a vast white stucco building a bug's throw from Kensington Palace, has been used by the Russian Embassy for the past six years. From 1991 to 1997, when the lease expired, it was the official residence of the Russian Ambassador, its three main reception rooms used for entertaining.

The building is now empty and the Crown Estate, which owns the freehold, is pondering a new use for it. One option could be to refurbish the ornate 19th-century building — thought to be worth about £20 million — before selling it on a new lease. Several would-be buyers have jumped the gun by looking around the building, which backs on to Kensington Palace: one wall adjoins part of the palace's staff quarters. A Russian Embassy official would not comment.

One potential buyer's representative, who managed a sneak view of the property before it was closed to viewers, said: "The house has eerie basements with swinging lights, which are a bit scary. There are only a handful of bedrooms, at present lived in by students, used by the Crown Estate to protect the property. But the reception rooms are magnificent."

The refurbishment of the house is part of the Crown Estate's policy of upgrading the street's houses and installing new street furniture and lighting to make it among the capital's smartest. Irene Belcher, from the estate, said: "We are planning new hard and soft landscaping, renewing the road surface, and planting trees and shrubs. There will also be a new traffic-management system to improve residents' access and security."

The house adjacent to the building, No 15a, was once its stable block. It is for sale through Savills



Now that the lease on 15 Kensington Gardens has expired and the Russians have left, the freeholder is considering new uses

for £9.5 million. Cope House is owned by Wensley Haydon-Baillie, the exclusive former pharmaceutical tycoon. It is the only house on "Millionaires' Row", as it is known, owned by a Briton. A neighbouring property with a long Crown lease was bought in 1991 by the Sultan of Brunei for £18 million.

Mr Haydon-Baillie also owns the 360-room Wentworth Woodhouse, near Rotherham, which has a frontage twice the length of a football pitch. Among his eccentricities is ownership of a non-flying Concorde, which he bought and donated to a museum. The son of a surgeon from Worksop, Nottinghamshire, he made a fortune out of buying undervalued companies in

the 1970s. He recently sold his classical late-Georgian property in the New Forest.

The Crown Estate is keeping quiet about the details of its plans for Kensington Palace Gardens, but its record and its explicit investment strategy of favouring heritage buildings in Central London suggests work of the highest quality. Its new mantra is that to make money, you have to spend it. This new approach has already been seen to good effect on its commercial buildings. Recent upgrading includes work on a dismal cul-de-sac behind Regent Street. And plans to pedestrianise the street were announced last week. Four years after the estate bought the entire block

and set to work. Heddon Street has become a trendy café quarter. Momo is the restaurant of the moment, abuzz night and day.

Last year the estate announced that the value of its property portfolio, including Regent Street, Windsor Great Park and the Nash terraces in Regent's Park, rose by 13 per cent, outperforming the 10.4 per cent industry index of UK investment property. Overall, the Crown's profits rose to a record £102.9 million, exceeding its pre-recession peak of £55 million in 1990.

Announcing its profits, Chris Howes, the chief executive commented that the commercial property market was at risk of overheating. "Investor demand to buy property is stronger than the demand for people to occupy it," he said. "It is an early sign of what I call disequilibrium. I can see the learnings on the move."

We can expect, then, the estate to expand and improve its residential portfolio. One trick is to improve those decorative public works projects that normally fall under the aegis of local government: paving, cast-iron lamp standards, railings, bus shelters, bollards, and junction boxes.

The estate adopted just this approach successfully in Regent Street. Residents could even be given a stylebook with aesthetic tips. Potential buyers of Cope House, and possibly the former Russian Ambassador's residence next door, should take note.

**'The estate will expand its residential portfolio'**

**'The three reception rooms are magnificent'**

## Paint can influence mood and colours can shade house prices

For the past few months we've been living in "decoland", a state of mind where you find yourself obsessed with the subtle difference between corn and apple white and point at people in restaurants because they are wearing the exact shade of burnt amber that you want for the dining room walls.

My idea was to paint our bedroom sage green — peaceful and soothing. My partner — saw the colour as cool and alienating. His idea, painting the whole flat pure, stark, minimalist white, is far too much for me — Minimalism is fine as long as you don't have any possessions.

Mistakes are so easily made. One friend settled, after much deliberation, on a deep yellow for a bedroom, which she thought would be warm and cheering. When she and her husband returned after the painters had gone home they found themselves walking into "a giant pumpkin" — on all four walls the colour became intensified to an unbearable degree. It took three coats of white to restore sanity.

To find out more about how to choose colours I collected a spectrum of paints available in matchpots from Homebase

## Making the most of matchpots

and asked the interior decorator Nina Campbell to give me her impressions of what effect each of them would have on a room. The darkest, Farrow & Ball's Picture Gallery Red, she described as "warm, quite masculine" and thought it would be most suitable for a library as it draws the walls in and is cosy. Next was Dulux's Ocean Cruise, which, though a deep blue, could be used successfully in a bedroom or a dining room, especially as part of a theme of blue and white. Stereotyping red as warm and blue as cold is too simplistic, I soon realised.

In contrast we tested Farrow & Ball's Sugar Bag light, an eggshell blue that looked rather dull on the wall. "It would

be a bit dense if you were sitting in the room all the time," said Ms Campbell, "but would be good in a passing-through room, linking other rooms of colour." Trying to be daring, I'd chosen Dulux's Tropical Lime, which Ms Campbell described as "quite fun for a young person's room" but also difficult to live with.

The natural colour selection, Cinnamon from Homebase's own Natural Tones range, got a thumbs-down. "You'd be in danger of having something that looks like Nora Batty's tights," Ms Campbell said, although it could be made more exciting with a glaze or colourwash.

Ms Campbell's advice is to choose a shade lighter than you think you need and to form your hands into a circle and look through that at the sample patch so that you are not influenced by surrounding colours. So if you say tomato and he says ivory, as the song almost goes, don't call the whole thing off. With a few matchpots and careful consideration you'll soon find your common ground.

ALISON CULLIFORD

## How decor can doom a sale

AFICIONADOS of bold shades beware. Colour schemes can make or break a house sale, according to a survey by General Accident Property Services, which reports that potential buyers can be turned off a property because of what they think the decor says about the seller. First impressions are vital, says Keith Burns at General Accident, and while pale colours suggest a caring, sensitive owner, many respondents

thought bold primary colours suggested an aggressive attitude. Purple suggested a devilish personality, while patterns and borders were associated with a chaotic or disorganised homeowner. Even if the owner makes the grade, the thought of putting a dramatic colour scheme right deters many would-be buyers who cannot see beyond the decor. Others are inclined to make lower offers, to fund redecoration.

Jonathan Hewlett of Savills says: "Anything extreme will appeal to only a limited market. I recently sold a house in Chelsea where colour schemes were close to Toy Town, with gold skirting boards, a blood-red drawing room and a purple and blue bedroom. It did put people off."

The guide price is easier to achieve if a house is decorated with up-to-date colours, such as blues, yellows and white, says Françoise Ellory at Browns in Cranleigh, Surrey. "Buyers in Surrey are very fashion-conscious," she says. "They will think a house decorated in the right colours is immaculately dressed, even if it has subsidence." An up-to-date bathroom, white with chrome fittings, is particularly important.

Purchasers of properties with coloured bathrooms will say they will have to spend a good sum to replace it with something more modern, even if it is in immaculate condition, so they make lower offers on the house.

Getting the balance right is essential. Peter Wetherell of Wetherell's in Mayfair says: "It is important not to go over the top. A few years ago we marketed a large flat in Park Lane, decorated in black and silver-grey throughout — wallpaper, soft furnishings,

the lot — combined with doors and skirting boards skilfully painted to give the impression of mahogany.

"It made a statement, but was very off-putting to the majority of potential purchasers who simply could not see beyond the colour. As a result, the flat took much longer to sell than it would if decorated in more acceptable colours." Exterior colour schemes can also make a difference, according to Phillip Blanchard at John D. Wood & Co in Winchester. Hunt Lodge, a bright sweetie-pink house in Ropley, Hampshire, had been on the market for some time with other agents when John D. Wood was invited to take a look and give some advice. Mr Blanchard says: "I advised the owners to repaint the exterior of the property in a neutral colour, because I felt most buyers would be put off by the pink."

"They spent the following weekend painting the house cream, then we remarketed it and a sale was agreed within a fortnight."

However, resolutely bold colourists should take some comfort from Jeremy Smallman at Strutt & Parker, who says they should stick to their guns, as a like-minded buyer will come along eventually.

AMANDA LOOSE



This house sold quickly after the pink exterior was repainted white

## Unmodernised? We'll take it

Amanda Loose spots a boom in a surprising part of the market as buyers search for bargains

Unmodernised properties are enjoying a boom. A market shortage of prime properties is prompting buyers who would normally seek a des res with all mod cons to peruse wrecks and time-warp cottages.

Old chestnuts such as "requires substantial renovation" and "in need of improvement" no longer deter househunters. The price difference between prime and unmodernised properties is closing in many areas, as agents report soaring interest in such houses.

Middlebriars, in Godalming, Surrey, a large family house needing "extensive renovation and modernisation", went for 25 per cent over the guide price earlier this year. Little had been done to the house since it was built in 1912 for a housemaster at Charterhouse School, whose family have lived there since. Hamptons International, which handled the sale, reports 150 viewings of the property and 25 offers.

Many househunters who would not have considered unmodernised properties now see them as the way to trade up and, says Andrew Brown of Clegg Kennedy Drew in Charlbury, Oxfordshire, because they cannot find anything to buy. Mr Brown recently had 12 offers on a pair of cottages in need of improvement, and 60 viewings in three weeks. He says: "The price differential between modernised and unmodernised properties is now limited. People will carry on bidding until they get an unmodernised house now, if it is the right property. We have a long waiting list for houses needing renovation, mainly from London buyers."

Richard Page of John D. Wood, agrees. "Buyers think they are a cheaper option," he says, "and go for them because they think they won't find what they want in the prime market."

But the stock of unmodernised properties is in short supply, so prices are rising. And now there is also competition from developers, so you probably will pay over the odds for what you get. Nicholas Pearce of Beany Pearce in Chelsea, says that the story is the same in London. "The price differential between modernised and unmodernised properties has closed in the past two to two and a half years," he says. "Because of the general shortage of property to buy in London, many amateurs have had to turn to the market for unmodernised. People who have never done this sort of thing before are becoming involved."

Noel Flint at Knight Frank agrees. "Prices of unmodernised property have been pushed up by shortages in Central London. Developers are also keen to have projects in a rising market, so they have been prepared to pay more for such properties than one would expect. At the beginning of the 1990s, people wanted the minimum amount of work; now if they find the house they want, they are prepared to take it on."

James Bailey of Douglas & Gordon in Chelsea, recommends having a local authority search and contacting building societies to see what has been repossessed in the area. But, says Mr Carey, proceed with caution. The pitfalls of modernisation can be numerous: seeking planning permission can be laborious, the cost of builders prohibitive and the sheer "bother margin" overwhelming.



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CHANGING TIMES



RACING: WRAGG-TRAINED CONTENDER PUSHED TO LIMIT BY THE GLOW-WORM IN CHESTER VASE

Gulland loses ground in Derby market

By CHRIS McGRATH

WHEN you seek high and low and still cannot find what you are looking for, the answer is usually right in front of your nose. Bookmakers offered baffled shrugs after Gulland, favourite for the Vodafone Derby, was forced to rip off his gloves to see off The Glow-Worm in a desperate finish to yesterday's Chester Vase.

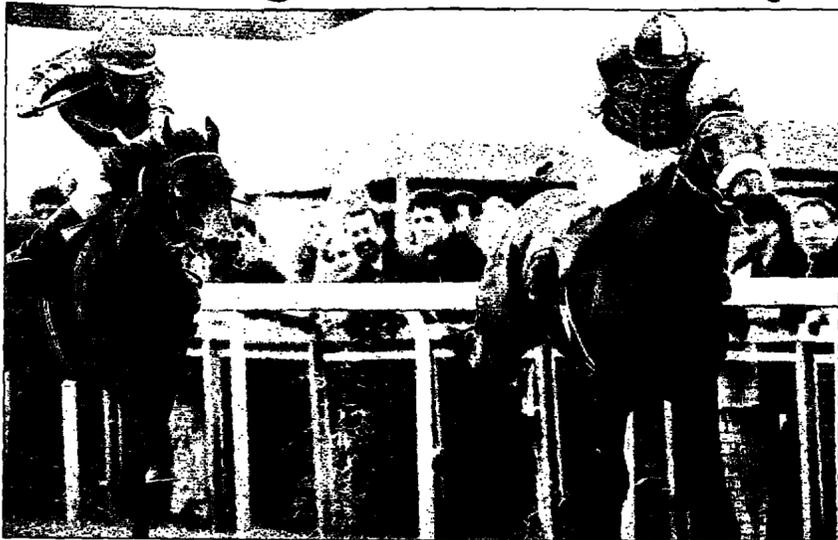
RICHARD EVANS

Nap: RAMBLING ROSE (3.45 Chester) Next best: Inditamaaj (4.45 Chester)

Richard Evans landed a 17-1 double at Chester yesterday with his nap, Bontan Pride (5-1), and Queensland Star (2-1). Thunderer also made Bontan Pride his best bet.

Gulland has forfeited his position in some lists to Border Arrow, in another to Haami. Yet where many could see only questions, Barry Hills could contemplate the horse who has restricted himself to answers. Much the same might occur to clients of William Hill, who offer The Glow-Worm at 25-1 for Epsom.

Hills was still ruminating over the Derby Italiano after yesterday's race, but you can make a case for The Glow-Worm emulating Quest For Fame, who won at Epsom after chasing home Belmont here in 1990. After all, The Glow-Worm has already won over the Derby course and



Gulland, right, narrowly holds The Glow-Worm in the Chester Vase yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

distance. On June 6, none of his rivals would be able to claim prior mastery of the downs; and few of them will have demonstrated, whatever the promise of pedigree, that they stay a mile and a half.

However, Ridgeway (carrying the same colours and treated as Gulland's pacemaker) dived through the first half of the race. With these dizzy turns further diluting the role of stamina, The Glow-Worm only found his stride in the straight — and a stride too late, come the post.

trainer, said: "From our point of view, it was a nonentity of a race. The pacemaker wasn't acting on the track and was ducking away from the television camera on the inside. As a result, Gulland had to go on much sooner than we wanted, and that took his pace away from the finish."

William Hill, nonetheless, pushed Gulland out to 14-1 (from 6-1), with Border Arrow now as short as 5-1. Coral has the latter as favourite at 8-1, while the Tote's book is now headed by Haami on 6-1. Ladbrokes preserves its faith in Gulland, albeit at 7-1 (from 5-1). All told, Barry Hills can surely need no second invitation from the fates, who rather

owe him a favour at Epsom, having subjected him to a number of near misses.

The Grosvenor Casinos Danie Stakes at York next Wednesday looks a solid trial, with Saratoga Springs, City Honours, Greek Dance, Dr Frog and possibly Border Arrow in opposition. It cannot, of course, produce a guaranteed stayer, and a measure of the Derby's open look is that Godolphin might supplement Cape Verdi (Ladbrokes offer 5-1, with a run).

Robert Sangster, who sold the 1,000 Guineas winner to Sheikh Mohammed last year, yesterday affirmed his love of Chester when Casino Captive won the William Hare Maiden. "Cape Verdi is probably one of the best horses I've bred," he said. "But I've got to make my budget pay. Our overheads are something like £7 million and I won't get that back in prize-money, so I have to sell. Sheikh Mohammed is a good client and a sporting one. Possibly with an eye on future transactions, he added that he has his best crop of two-year-olds yet at Manton.

The Midas touch of Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, might have worn off his players, but it is certainly doing the trick for his horses. Queensland Star, successful as his first runner at Newmarket last month, followed up in the Joseph Heler Lily Agnes Stakes. Despite the distractions of the World Cup, he will now be trained for Royal Ascot.

New team for Newbury

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

A NEW chairman and chief executive are being appointed at Newbury raccourse to take the Berkshire track towards the Millennium.

The Earl of Carnarvon, chairman for the past 13 years, will retire after the annual meeting at the end of this month and be replaced by David Steff, who recently became one of the four Jockey Club nominees on the British Horseracing Board.

David Paik, chief executive for the past eight years, has also decided to step down and will retire after the appointment of a successor. The job will be advertised shortly.

The important changes come at a key time for Newbury, which is set to

embark on another major development next year with the building of a new £5 million Tattersalls grandstand.

In recent years, the course has been upgraded with the completion of the Berkshire Stand and the acquisition of its first group one race — the Locking Stakes. However, there have been some rumblings of discontent of late, notably from National Hunt trainers concerning the state of the ground on the jump track, and from some members.

The changes follow delicate behind-the-scenes negotiations in recent weeks and are timely. Newbury is the latest raccourse to undergo funda-

mental management changes — after Ascot and Newmarket — and they reflect the growing pressure on tracks to modernise and meet the more demanding requirements of customers and sponsors.

Pank said yesterday: "The reason for my retirement is that I have less than two years to go and further modernisation at Newbury will take longer than that I felt — along with the board — that whoever came in should really be able to go from flash to bang, so to speak, and be in at the start."

Sponsorship at Newbury has doubled since he arrived in 1990, while the Berkshire Stand was the major project during his time at the course.

High Intrigue to relish test

CHESTER CHANNEL 4

2.10: Blundell Lane helped force the pace for a long way at Doncaster last time and ran far better than his finishing position suggests. Brought back in trip and perfectly drawn next to the stands' rail, Alan's runner has sound claims judged on his nursery success at Redcar last year. Mantles Pride changed stables over the winter and put up a much improved performance from a poor draw at Thirsk on his first run for Peter Calver 18 days ago. That was over the minimum trip and, with further improvement likely over today's distance, he can oblige.



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

2.40: Boddari Muka was second to Queensland Star on his debut at Newmarket 20 days ago, and with the winner landing the Lily Agnes Stakes here yesterday, Barry Hills' runner has an obvious chance. Landican Lane missed the break on his debut at Haydock last Saturday, but

stayed on well at the finish and should have learnt a lot from the experience. Of the untraced runners, the well drawn Royal Origine looks most interesting.

3.10: On handicapping, High Intrigue is not particularly well treated at the weights judged on his racecourse achievements. However, there are several reasons for thinking Henry Cecil's runner is open to considerable improvement. A pedigree packed with stamina on both sides suggests he will relish this extended 2½-mile mile trip. He is lightly raced yet has won half his six starts.

including a victory round this unique track: all of which offers encouragement. More logical choices include Turnpole, better than ever when winning at Doncaster 40 days ago. Any overnight rain would boost his chances, along with those of Forgie. Top Cees is not out of it despite being off an 8lb higher mark than when winning 12 months ago, while Steve Fair and Cyrian are others for the shortlist.

3.45: Due South has sound claims judged on her third at Aliboston and Almutawakel at Goodwood, but Ed Dunlop's horses are yet to find form. High And Low was a good second on her only start last term, and the Rainbow Quest filly should find plenty of improvement over this trip. However, Rambling Rose improved with every start last year and ended up chasing home Gulland, winner of yesterday's Chester Vase, at Pontefract. With Michael Kinane booked, she can score.

RICHARD EVANS

CHEPSTOW

THUNDERER  
2.20 Kilbride Lad, 2.50 Bramblehill Duke, 3.20 Frazer Island, 3.55 Kreef, 4.25 Halls, 4.55 Bullens Bay.

Carl Evans: 4.25 Fates Tail.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT PATCHES) SIS

2.20 BALMORAL JUVENILE NOVICE HURDLE

(4-Y-O; £2,206; 2m 4f 110yd) (4 runners)  
1 3031 KILBRIDE LAD 15 (D.F.S.) D. McKeown 11-10  
2 2211 RAMBORN STAR 23 (D.F.S.) M. P. Kelly 11-5  
3 2292 WALK ON BY 28 (D.F.S.) J. J. O'Brien 11-2  
4 3305 ZAFARULLI 30 (D.F.S.) P. Hill 11-0

2.50 BUCKINGHAM NOVICES HURDLE

(2-Y-O; £2,116; 2m 11yd) (6 runners)  
1 143P BRAMBLES DURE 85 (D.F.S.) M. Williams 6-11-10  
2 418P MACY 97 (D.F.S.) R. Doherty 5-11-8  
3 418P MACY 97 (D.F.S.) R. Doherty 5-11-8  
4 1023 LADY AMY 108 (D.F.S.) P. Hill 5-11-2  
5 34P TUDOR 111 (D.F.S.) G. Jones 5-11-1  
6 199P COLBY 111 (D.F.S.) G. Jones 5-11-1

3.20 HIGHGROVE HURDLE

(2-Y-O; £2,116; 2m 11yd) (6 runners)  
1 311P CHERYNT 34 (D.F.S.) J. Nicholls 9-12-0  
2 311P CHERYNT 34 (D.F.S.) J. Nicholls 9-12-0  
3 311P CHERYNT 34 (D.F.S.) J. Nicholls 9-12-0  
4 311P CHERYNT 34 (D.F.S.) J. Nicholls 9-12-0  
5 311P CHERYNT 34 (D.F.S.) J. Nicholls 9-12-0  
6 311P CHERYNT 34 (D.F.S.) J. Nicholls 9-12-0

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mico 1, Williams 6, Wherry 10, 12, 20, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

3.55 SANDRINGHAM SELLING HURDLE

(£1,576; 2m 4f 110yd) (12 runners)  
1 2291 WOODSTOCK WANDERER 12 (D.F.S.) M. Williams 6-11-10  
2 2291 WOODSTOCK WANDERER 12 (D.F.S.) M. Williams 6-11-10  
3 2291 WOODSTOCK WANDERER 12 (D.F.S.) M. Williams 6-11-10  
4 2291 WOODSTOCK WANDERER 12 (D.F.S.) M. Williams 6-11-10  
5 2291 WOODSTOCK WANDERER 12 (D.F.S.) M. Williams 6-11-10  
6 2291 WOODSTOCK WANDERER 12 (D.F.S.) M. Williams 6-11-10

4.25 JORROCKS NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE

(£1,204; 3m) (16 runners)  
1 35P ARDILL BOY 22P (D.F.S.) J. Egan 10-12-0  
2 35P ARDILL BOY 22P (D.F.S.) J. Egan 10-12-0  
3 35P ARDILL BOY 22P (D.F.S.) J. Egan 10-12-0  
4 35P ARDILL BOY 22P (D.F.S.) J. Egan 10-12-0  
5 35P ARDILL BOY 22P (D.F.S.) J. Egan 10-12-0  
6 35P ARDILL BOY 22P (D.F.S.) J. Egan 10-12-0

4.55 SOUTH WEST AMATEUR RIDERS HURDLE

(£2,812; 3m) (16 runners)  
1 132P SIMPSON 90 (D.F.S.) J. O'Connell 12-12-7  
2 132P SIMPSON 90 (D.F.S.) J. O'Connell 12-12-7  
3 132P SIMPSON 90 (D.F.S.) J. O'Connell 12-12-7  
4 132P SIMPSON 90 (D.F.S.) J. O'Connell 12-12-7  
5 132P SIMPSON 90 (D.F.S.) J. O'Connell 12-12-7  
6 132P SIMPSON 90 (D.F.S.) J. O'Connell 12-12-7

MUSSELBURGH

THUNDERER  
2.00 Executive Event, 2.30 Summerhill Special, 3.00 All On, 3.35 Bowcliffe Court, 4.05 Circuitree, 4.35 Impulsive Air.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: SF, LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.00 PINKIE PILLARS CLAIMING STAKES

(2-Y-O; £2,785; 5f) (7 runners)  
1 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
2 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
3 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
4 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
5 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
6 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1

2.30 CARBERRY LIMITED STAKES

(£2,785; 1m 4f) (6 runners)  
1 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
2 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
3 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
4 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
5 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
6 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1

3.00 RIVER ESX HURDLE

(£2,921; 2m) (13 runners)  
1 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
2 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
3 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
4 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
5 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
6 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1

3.35 BRUNTON HALL HURDLE

(£2,882; 5f) (8 runners)  
1 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
2 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
3 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
4 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
5 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
6 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1

4.05 WALLYFORD MEDIAN MAIDEN STAKES

(£2,248; 7f 30yd) (9 runners)  
1 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
2 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
3 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
4 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
5 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
6 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1

4.35 WHITELAW HURDLE

(£3,097; 1m) (14 runners)  
1 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
2 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
3 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
4 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
5 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
6 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1

CHEPSTOW

THUNDERER  
2.00 Executive Event, 2.30 Summerhill Special, 3.00 All On, 3.35 Bowcliffe Court, 4.05 Circuitree, 4.35 Impulsive Air.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: SF, LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.00 PINKIE PILLARS CLAIMING STAKES

(2-Y-O; £2,785; 5f) (7 runners)  
1 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
2 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
3 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
4 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
5 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
6 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1

2.30 CARBERRY LIMITED STAKES

(£2,785; 1m 4f) (6 runners)  
1 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
2 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
3 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
4 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
5 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
6 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1

3.00 RIVER ESX HURDLE

(£2,921; 2m) (13 runners)  
1 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
2 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
3 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
4 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
5 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
6 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1

3.45 SHADWELL STUD CHESHIRE OAKS

(SHOWCASE RACE) (3-Y-O; listed race, £28,235; 1m 3f 79yd) (8 runners)  
1 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
2 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
3 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
4 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
5 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
6 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1

4.15 EVELYN DELVES BROUGHTON MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES

(3-Y-O; £8,937; 7f 2yd) (9 runners)  
1 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
2 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
3 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
4 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
5 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
6 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1

4.45 CHESHIRE REGIMENT HURDLE

(3-Y-O; £2,545; 1m 4f) (11 runners)  
1 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
2 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
3 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
4 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
5 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1  
6 013 EXECUTIVE EVENT (D.F.S.) P. Hill 9-1-1

RACELINE CHESTER MUSSELBURGH CHEPSTOW WETHERBY UTOXETER

FREE £10 BET FOR FIRST TIME TELEPHONE CALLERS staking £25 or more using Switch, Delta or Solo bank or building society debit cards.

TONIGHT'S U.S. FA CUP FINAL 11/8 INTER 15/8 DRAW LAZIO 15/8

TRAINERS: Mico 1, Williams 6, Wherry 10, 12, 20, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

TENNIS

Gustafsson calls time on Becker

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN HAMBURG

IN AN ever-changing world of young guns forcing their way into the spotlight, it was the old boys who warmed the heart on a distinctly cold and damp day at the German Open.

As the rain fell on the Centre Court roof - Greg Rusedski's second-round match against Emilio Alvarez, scheduled for an outside court, was postponed until today - Boris Becker huffed and puffed for 96 minutes but still could not blow away the challenge of Magnus Gustafsson.

The Swede, 31, finally silenced around 10,000 vociferous spectators as he went through 7-5, 6-4.

By rights, neither man should have made much of an impact here. Becker, now 30, is in the process of retiring, while Gustafsson came close to throwing in the towel last year. Yet that is to disregard the Becker effect in Germany - if the man sneezes in public, it makes front page news and, for all his pronouncements last year at Wimbledon, he still loves to compete and to win.

Gustafsson had to take his courage in both hands yesterday. During his career, he has

been known to get a little edgy when the big moment was upon him and, with every member of the near-capacity crowd backing Becker, he was very much alone.

"I think at the beginning of my career I would definitely have lost a match like this," he said. However, Gustafsson has found a new lease of life recently. Last year he was forced to take three months off to recover from surgery on his shoulder and seriously considered retiring.

Healing slowly but surely, he still thought that this would be his last year on the circuit, but a win in Copenhagen in March, a semi-final place in Munich last week and this first-round victory over Becker are forcing him to reconsider. "Certainly, you can still get a buzz from beating Boris, even if he is ending his career," Gustafsson said. "I knew as soon as I saw the draw that there would be a big crowd and he would give it everything he has."

While Becker may still have more hair left than Gustafsson, the Swede has more matches under his belt this year and that made all the difference. Becker was trying



Gustafsson, who nearly quit the game last year, displays his new-found zest on the way to victory over Becker

to play calmly and mix up his game, a tactic that kept him in contention for most of the first set. The three break points that Gustafsson had were wiped out as Becker fired up his big service and forced himself to greater efforts at the net.

However, when it came to his own hint of a chance at 5-4, he could not take it and lost the

next ten points. Even when Gustafsson tightened up at the prospect of winning the set, Becker could still not gain any leverage. As Becker became increasingly frustrated in the second set, Gustafsson was home and dry.

"There were moments when I lost my concentration or played the wrong shot at the wrong time," Becker said.

"He's a damn good player and you have to win each point four times over."

The search continues in Germany for Becker's successor and Tommy Haas, the player tipped for greatness by the great one himself, did his reputation no harm by putting out Carlos Moyá, the No 10 seed, 6-2, 7-5.

Moyá has been working his

way back into the rankings for the last couple of months, reaching the semi-finals of his past three tournaments, but yesterday the first round was too much for him. However, Nicolas Pietrangeli, another German hope for the future, was booted off court as he appeared to lose interest against Oliver Gross, his countryman, and limped out 3-6, 6-2, 6-1.

SAILING: THIRSTY CREW SURROUNDED BY WATER ESCAPES DANGER OF BEING LEFT WITH NOTHING TO DRINK

Pump repair spares Cayard tricky decision

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

PAUL CAYARD is like a man who has won the lottery but every now and again wakes up from a nightmare in which the winning ticket is lost in the laundry. He has not won the Whitbread Round the World Race yet, but he deserves to. However, this race is giving him some terrible frighs as he pilots EF Langauge through the final stages.

Yesterday was almost a mirror image of the start of the sixth leg, when Cayard thought that his mast was coming down after EF Langauge buried her nose in a 30R wave for the first night out from São Sebastião. This time, it was not the sea or even

the rig that caused trouble, but the more mundane yet equally threatening problem of the on-board watermaker.

Rationing was introduced while Magnus Olsson worked furiously on the pumps. After rebuilding the main unit five times, he eventually found a tiny build-up of corrosion, which, once cleaned up, solved the problem. "When it worked, you have never seen a happier group of people," Cayard said.

As usual, difficulties on EF Langauge have not distracted them from

the race itself, with Cayard yesterday comfortable behind the new joint-leaders, Toshiba, skippered by Paul Standbridge, and Silk Cut, skippered by Lawrie Smith. The whole fleet has chosen the Gulf Stream route over the more northerly Great Circle and is spread out over 26 miles north-south, but just 14 miles east-west.

In the south is Grant Dalton's Merit Cup, with her nearest rival in the overall points table, Innovation Kwaerner, skippered by Knut Frostad, hot on her heels. About 18 miles north of Merit Cup is Silk Cut,

which Vincent Geake, her navigator, has positioned on her own. The main pack is about six miles north of her, led by Cayard, just ahead of the all-female crew on EF Education.

Toshiba suffered yet another dose of ill-luck on the way out of the Chesapeake when she got caught up with a lobster pot in the dark and ended up dragging lines for five hours before Sean Clarkson was able to go over the side with a knife to cut them away.

After leaving the Bay in eighth place, the crew have worked hard and made a great recovery. "Our thanks to Sean," Standbridge said.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Taylor to remain in charge of Test team

CRICKET: Australia are to persist with their policy of having two captains in the run-up to the World Cup in England next year. Mark Taylor will carry on as Test captain with Steve Waugh as the one-day captain. After a meeting with Australian Cricket Board officials, Taylor said: "My future is business as usual, making myself available firstly for Pakistan in October and, if selected, appointed captain."

Waugh said that he was willing to continue as the one-day captain and serve under Taylor in Test matches. "If the situation is the same next year, I'm more than happy to continue as captain of the one-day team if selected and back up Mark if he is captain of the Test side." Taylor has admitted that he is unlikely to play for the one-day team again. "I don't think Mark Taylor is going to play any more one-day games for Australia and I accepted that fact in October-November last year," he said.

McRae extends lead

MOTOR RALLYING: Colin McRae, of Scotland, had increased his lead to 42.5sec in the Corsica Rally after the first three stages on the second day of competition. McRae, driving a Subaru Impreza, won the seventh and eighth stages, but Carlos Sainz, of Spain, in a Toyota Corolla, won the ninth stage - the third of yesterday's six special stages - to move into second place, ahead of Piero Liati, of Italy, in another Subaru, and Francois Delcourt, of France, in his Peugeot 306 Maxi. McRae was disqualified on Monday after a tyre violation but was reinstated on appeal and was certainly making the most of his good fortune. The rally finishes late today.

Setback for Pitthie

BOXING: Dean Pitthie will not challenge for the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) super-featherweight championship in Paris later this month. The Coventry man, who is unbeaten, had been hoping to meet Julien Lortcy on May 16 after the title-holder, Barry Jones, failed a brain scan, but objections have been raised to the contest as Pitthie is only ranked No 4 by the WBO. Instead, Pitthie will defend his WBO inter-continental title in Liverpool on June 6 against Gary Thornhill. Robert McCracken, of Birmingham, who hopes to box for the World Boxing Council middleweight crown this year, has suffered a rib injury while training in Las Vegas and could miss a warm-up bout planned for May 19.

Rain stopped play

TENNIS: Three seeds reached the second round of the Italian Open in Rome yesterday before a downpour interrupted play. Sandrine Testud, the No 12 seed, from France, beat Laura Colaninno, of Italy, 2-6, 6-2, 6-4. Dominique Van Rossum, of Belgium, seeded No 13, dismissed Karina Habšudová, of Slovakia, 6-4, 6-2, and Lisa Raymond, the No 15 seed from the United States, defeated Anne-Gaëlle Sidot, of France. Anna Kournikova, the No 14 seed, led 3-0 against Virag Csurgu, of Hungary, when play was halted.

Montgomery's date

GOLF: Colin Montgomerie will play in the Benson and Hedges International Open at The Oxfordshire, the first PGA European Tour event this season on British soil, next week after the birth of his first son. Cameron Stuart Montgomerie, a brother for Olivia and Venetia, was born last Friday, allowing Montgomerie to confirm his appearance in the tournament. The Scot does not have happy memories of the course, scoring 81 in the final round last year and having a closing round of 84 two years ago.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with multiple columns listing sports events, results, and records. Includes sections for Athletics, Dance Sport, Ice Hockey, Baseball, Basketball, Bowls, Cricket, Football, Rugby Union, Sailing, Squash, Tennis, and Motor Rallying.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table listing today's fixtures for various sports including Football, Cricket, and Rugby Union.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This was a sharp defence by Tony Forrester, playing for the team that won the 1997/98 BBL Premier League.

Bridge hand diagram showing Dealer East, East-West Game, and IMPs. Includes a list of cards and a small grid.

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: Queen of diamonds.

(1) North-South were playing five-card majors, and Three Diamonds showed a sound raise to at least Three Hearts.

West (Forrester) led the queen of diamonds, which declarer won in hand to draw three rounds of trumps, finishing in dummy. His next move was a spade to the ten. Forrester instantly surmised that if he took the queen of spades, declarer would force out the ace and come to ten tricks: five hearts, two spades, two diamonds and a club. Instead he beat the ten with the ace and played a diamond to dummy's king.

Now put yourself in declarer's position. Needing

two tricks from the spade suit, you have J87 facing K6 remaining, with the queen and nine outstanding, and the queen apparently marked over the jack. Playing king and another fails if East started with Q9xx. But running the jack looks like a 100% line: if East covers with his queen, you win the king and knock out the nine. That is how declarer decided to play, but Forrester won the queen and played a club, removing the entry to the thirteenth spade. South had to lose two club tricks for one down.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

In the last of the Regional Finals of The Times Midland Private Banking National Bridge Challenge, held in Bristol over the weekend, category winners were: Midland: D Selis, T Burns; Ladies: J Merriman, J Cox; Midlands: M Morris, A Stevens; Social: J Thierry de Falcozay, D Malone. The National Final takes place in Sutton Coldfield on June 27-28.

WORD-WATCHING

- By Philip Howard
STATABLOC a. A sprinter's aid b. A wire dispenser c. Eastern European alliance
MEGRIM a. A headache b. An Atlantic fish c. A religious traveller
SCUMBLE a. Painter's technique b. A small shellfish c. A rigger movement

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Junior exploits Today I continue to celebrate the achievement of Ruslan Ponomarev, 14, in becoming the world's youngest ever grandmaster.

The following game was played in the world under-20 championship. True to his Karpov-like style, Ponomarev outmanoeuvred his opponent in a quiet position and then demonstrates his grandmaster class by efficient control of the tactics which ultimately lead to his victory. Ponomarev was born on October 11, 1983, in Gorlovka in the Ukraine. In 1994 he came third in the under-12 world championship, winning the title the following year, while in 1997, at the age of 13, he won the under-18 world junior championship.

White: Ponomarev Black: Van den Doel World under-20 championship Zagan 1997

Chess board diagram showing Sicilian Defence and Diagram of final position. Includes a small chessboard diagram.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene Black to play. This position is from the game Chrobak-Daroczy, Debrecen, 1998. Black's powerful play along the e-file and h1-a8 diagonal grant him the opportunity for a neat tactical finish. How did the game conclude? Solution on page 42

BASKETBALL

Brandon is forced to stand down at Giants

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

JIM BRANDON, the popular American, who, against all odds, coached Manchester Giants to third place in the Budweiser Championship play-off finals at Wembley last weekend, has been forced by his awkward personal life to leave the club after a year in charge.

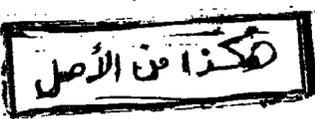
The parting of the ways was almost inevitable even though the Giants had, after losing their last six league games, surprisingly reached Wembley at the expense of Greater London Leopards, the champions. "It has not been easy. I've had a rough time," Brandon said.

Since his partner came under the care of a drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre in the United States, Brandon has become a single parent looking after his son and daughter, aged 1 and 2.

"The fact that I've been able to work through the season has been a miracle," he said. "It has been very difficult to coach the team in the evenings after changing nappies in the morning. My children deserve 100 per cent of me. The league of parenthood has got to be more important than the league of basketball. That means I'll probably be sitting out the rest of the year."

Brandon, 39, who played for the Giants as well as Sunderland, Calderdale and Leicester, made his name as a coach with Sheffield Sharks, a new franchise that won the league in its first year. The move across the Pennines to Manchester last summer apparently suited Brandon because his roots were in Manchester, but things were not to turn out as well as he had hoped.

The Giants, who hope to fill their vacancy quickly, will almost certainly be considering the claims of Bob Donewald, who left Leicester Riders by mutual consent after their failure to reach the play-offs.



BRIEF

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*"... the changes underneath work, adding bite and feedback to the steering... and letting you adjust cornering attitude on the throttle"*

WHAT CAR



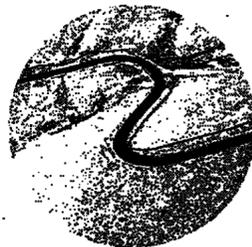
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Adams and Bevan provide basis of winning score as Sussex enjoy taste of cup success

# Cottey inspires bold Glamorgan effort

By Jack Bailey

HOVE (Glamorgan won toss): Sussex (2pts) beat Glamorgan by three runs

SUSSEX'S victory yesterday made no impact on their unenviable record in the Benson and Hedges Cup, in which they have failed to reach the quarter-finals in 11 of the last 12 seasons, but there was rejoicing in the manner of their win as well as the fact of it as they squeezed home.

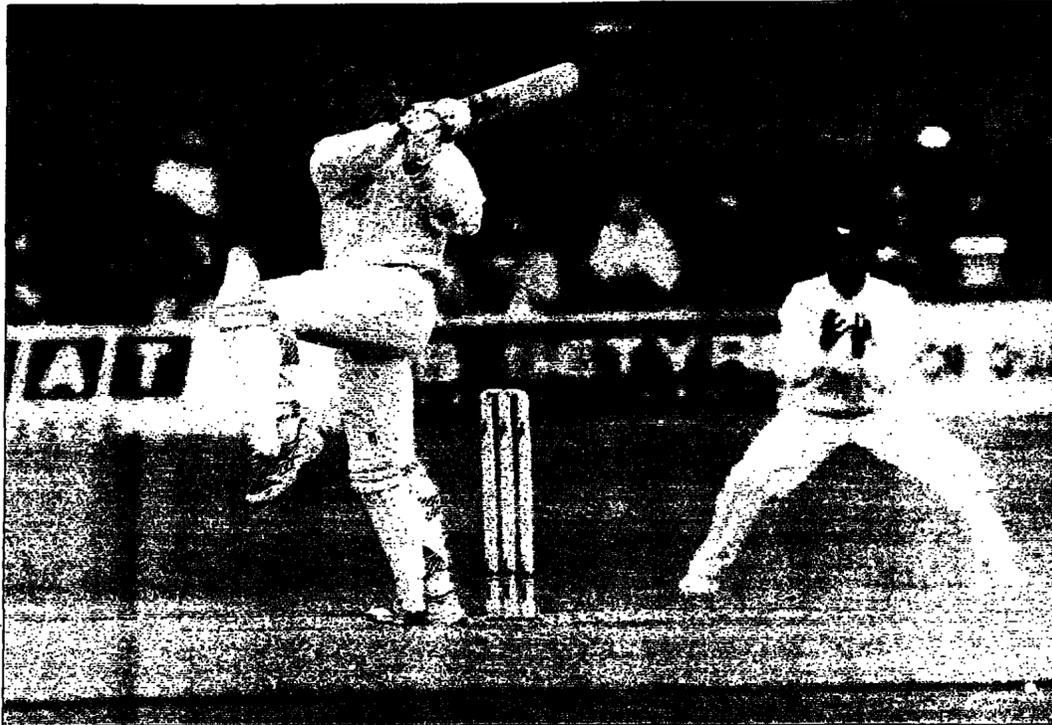
This was no match for those with weak hearts. First, Sussex seemed bound to win, Glamorgan, facing a total of 302, lost their first six wickets for 156 runs and Tony Cottey, their captain for the day, was the last of the recognised batsmen.

Yet, as Cottey slammed six after six over and well beyond the short boundary on the scoreboard side of the ground and as Waqar Younis joined in the general mayhem, the match seemed to have turned irretrievably.

Younis went after a stand that yielded 81 runs from ten overs for the eighth wicket, but Cottey sizzled along to his highest one-day score so that only three runs were left for victory. Then Cottey, on 96, barely out of his ground, was brilliantly run out as he backed up, Lewry throwing down the wicket from mid-on as he dived forward.

The crowd held their breath and had scarcely time to catch it again before Watkin was bowled by the next ball and it was all over. It only remained for Michael Bevan to collect the Gold Award, justly earned by his excellent unbeaten 95 and some tight bowling during the middle of Glamorgan's innings.

Bevan and Chris Adams, the Sussex captain, had both played a large part in the eventual triumph. Even though Sussex lost the wicket of Toby Pierce, a victim of Waqar's new-ball spell, un-comfortably early, it soon became apparent that on this pitch a total of 300 was roughly par for the course. Adams, in his supremely un-complicated style, was soon at home, driving and cutting



Croft, a roaring success as a pinch-hitter in one-day cricket, pulls Lewry for four during yesterday's innings of 59 against Sussex at Hove

fercely. He was particularly severe on Watkin and used his feet to Croft. He was a batsman at ease with himself and relishing his role.

With Wasim Khan, Adams added 118 in 20 overs. His first 50 came from 45 balls and altogether he had hit 12 fours in his 81 when he chanced his arm once too often at Waqar, falling victim to a fine catch at deep point. At 162 for three and 22 overs remaining, the stage was set for Bevan and an admirably paced innings.

Bevan began circumspectly, but, as he broadened his range, the runs flowed apace, despite a searching second

spell by Waqar that carved through the Sussex middle-order and brought him the wickets of Adams, Carpenter and Newell in six overs for 19 runs. Edwards and Lewry kept Bevan company for long enough, however, and the lithe Australian accelerated fiercely to take Sussex past the 300 mark.

His first 50 came from 58 balls; his second 45 from just 17. Thanks largely to him, Sussex had added 93 from the last ten overs of their innings.

It was a day when stick was handed out in fair measure to all but the tightest bowling. Croft, who is turning pinch-

hitting into something of an art form followed one-day scores of 76, 67 and 50 with 59, his first 50 coming from only 34 balls. But once he was out, bowled by Robinson's first ball of the day, and Robinson had sliced his way through the middle ranks of the batting, it looked all over bar the shouting, until Cottey and Waqar got together.

Sussex have their weaknesses but they are also a young side full of enthusiasm. Shaun Humphries has taken over as wicketkeeper following the decision of Peter Moores, last year's captain, to give up playing to concentrate on coaching.

SCOREBOARD FROM HOVE. SUSSEX: M T E Pearce b Waqar 16, W G Khan b Shaw b Croft 33, C J Adams b Waqar 81, M G Bevan not out 95, J R Carpenter bow b Waqar 3, K Newell c Shaw b Waqar 10, A D Edwards c Shaw b Thomas 8, S D Humphries bow b Watkin 18, J D Lewry run out 13, R J Kirtley b Waqar b Butcher 2, Extras (lb 14, w 16) 30. Total (9 wickets, 50 overs) 302. M A Robinson did not bat. FALL OF WICKETS: 1-21, 2-139, 3-162, 4-172, 5-182, 6-213, 7-248, 8-288, 9-302. BOWLING: Waqar Younis 10-0-43-4, Watkin 10-0-71-1, Thomas 8-0-65-1, M E Trescothick 8-0-36-1, Croft 10-0-41-0, Cottey 7-0-32-1. Gold award: M G Bevan.

# Middlesex swept past Lancashire seamers rout Minor Counties

By Simon Wilde

LORDS (Ireland won toss): Middlesex (2pts) beat Ireland by six wickets

THE winds of change are blowing through Middlesex County Cricket Club as well as MCC. After 30 years of conservatism, the club's players are being asked by John Buchanan, their innovative new coach, to think things afresh and that is what they are doing.

At one-day cricket, they needed to. Middlesex's defeat by Ireland in the Benson and Hedges Cup last year, for which they took measured revenge yesterday, was the last straw for some and contributed to the creation of a working party, headed by Paul Donovan, to re-examine strategy. Buchanan's appointment was one response.

Though Buchanan has been in charge only weeks, the atmosphere has changed. Tufnell can hardly get a match - he did not turn his arm over in his one game - and Gatting has dropped out of one-day cricket altogether. How long the former captain will continue in the championship side is also in question. "I don't see the point in dragging things out for the sake of it," Gatting said before the season and his hope of reaching 100 hundreds has all but gone.

Yesterday, Brown continued his new role as opener and scored more runs, Johnson was pushed up to do a spot of pinch-hitting and one of the more successful bowlers was Alistair Fraser, younger brother of Angus, who has embarked on an unlikely second spell at the club at the age of 31.

"Junior's" first spell was not a great success, nor his brief time at Essex, but he was chosen here ahead of the promising Bloomfield. He claimed two wickets, but was also driven for six by McCallan over the short, cover boundary.

Angus Fraser finished wicketless, but his ruggardly spells perhaps played an even larger part in Ireland reaching an inadequate 196 for seven. The early removal of Langer raised Irish hopes of another upset, but these were dashed by Brown and Johnson's brisk work and the immaculate form of Ramprakash.

That, though, was all. Somerset lost Burns in the first over, McLean holding a doctored return catch from a mistimed attempted push off his legs. Harden and Rose, who won the gold award for his two wickets earlier in the day, came up with useful innings, as did Bowler, who made 41. Yet something more was required.

This was forthcoming from Parsons, who was unbeaten with 32 at the close, by when the light was murky. The sadness is that Lathwell has yet to make his first appearance of the season, for apparently he can hardly middle the ball in the nets, let alone on the square. Reeve, the Somerset coach, compensates to an extent with his supreme self-confidence. He fielded at short leg yesterday without bothering about a helmet.

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LAKENHAM (Lancashire won toss): Lancashire (2pts) beat Minor Counties by seven wickets

EVERYTHING seems to be conspiring against Minor Counties in the Benson and Hedges Cup this year. They were placed in the toughest of all the groups, they lost Phil Oliver, their coach, with a broken leg and Ian Cockbain, their captain, with a broken thumb before the competition even began and they had the rough end of the conditions in their defeats by Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire.

Then, yesterday, things took a turn for the worse. They ran into Lancashire on a pitch where bowlers like Wasim Akram, Peter Martin, Ian Austin and Glen Chapple might have routed a first-class side, never mind a bunch of part-timers, and were all out for 52, the lowest score by any Minor Counties team in the history of the competition.

Lancashire were suitably grateful. They had to win this match to stay abreast of Warwickshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire at the top of group A and were looking anxiously at the sky when rain stopped play after eight overs with the Minor Counties 15 without loss.

They need not have worried. They were back on the field an hour later and, in the next 18.5 overs, they took all ten wickets. Austin and Martin making the initial thrust, Chapple scything through the middle order with five for seven and Wasim administering the last rites.

There was not much evidence of swing, but the ball was darting around and once Carl Rogers had edged Austin to give Atherton the first of his three well-taken catches at first slip, it was a procession.

The Minor Counties had won only six of their previous 73 Cup matches and they were obviously not about to make it seven, although Lancashire did give them some encouragement. In their haste to get the job done, Flinoff topped an attempted pull to the wicketkeeper, Crawley slashed to slip and Fairbrother drove to mid-on, but Atherton, his concentration intact, saw them safely home in the fourth over.

It was all over before 3pm, leaving the Minor Counties plenty of time to contemplate today's assignment - a joust with Warwickshire.

MINOR COUNTIES: S J Dean c Flinoff b Martin 9, C J Rogers c Atherton b Austin 11, P D Brown b Martin b Chapple 8, M A Fall c Atherton b Austin 2, P D Newman bow b Chapple 3, P J Nicholson bow b Chapple 0, D B Parnett c Martin b Chapple 5, Extras (lb 2, w 8) 16. Total (10 wickets, 18.5 overs) 52. FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-24, 3-31, 4-34, 5-40, 6-41, 7-42, 8-50, 9-50. BOWLING: Wasim Akram 4.5-13-1, Martin 8-1-20-2, Austin 9-1-19-2, Chapple 6-2-7-5.

LANCASHIRE: M A Atherton not out 28, A Parnett c Nicholson b Martin 0, J P Foster c Rogers b Sharp 17, N H Fairbrother c Dean b Sharp 6, G Lloyd not out 0, Extras (lb 3, w 3) 6. Total (10 wickets, 13.4 overs) 52. Wastan Akram, P W K Hepp, I D Austin, G Chapple, C J Foster and J J Martin did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22, 2-22, 3-28. BOWLING: Newman 6.2-18-1, Martin 6.4-2-25-2, Richardson 1-0-10-0. Umpires: T E Jessy and A A Jones. Gold Award: A R Durkop.

# MCC may vote again on women members

THE MCC committee is likely to announce that it intends to hold another vote, preferably this year, on the vexed issue of the election of women (Ivo Tennant writes). Its reasons for so doing will be outlined at the annual meeting at Lords this afternoon, when Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie, the president, is expected to nominate Tony Lewis, a former England captain, as his successor.

As well as explaining why the issue of the election of women should be raised again so soon after its rejection in February, Ingleby-Mackenzie will have to explain the committee's charges on members for watching World Cup matches at Lord's next year. The response has been so agitated that a vote of no confidence could be raised from the floor. Members will be charged £75 to attend the final and £60 for preliminary matches.

The continuing debate over the admission of women should be no less emotive. The committee insists that it has not been pressurised by the Government into another vote after 44 per cent of the members blocked its recommendation to elect them in February.

There will be no alteration to the club's ruling that a two-thirds majority has to be obtained for women to be admitted. The committee feels that it is disadvantaged by not being able to take female executives of potential sponsors into the Long Room, yet it risks a backlash from members not keen to debate the matter again.

# McLean's assault proves in vain

TAUNTON (Hampshire won toss): Somerset (2pts) beat Hampshire by five wickets

West Indians are increasingly affiliated to the United States rather than Great Britain is evidenced by the christening of him and his two brothers as Nixon, Kissinger and Reagan. He drove successive balls from Caddick for four, six, four, six, six - one of these high drives peppering St James' Churchyard. Hampshire finished with a total of 169 for five, which, if not exactly respectable, was a score of sorts.

Fortunates to beat British Universities last Friday, they had lost both openers in Rose's opening spell and struggled to force the ball away until the tailenders came in. Laney was caught at mid-wicket through a poorly executed clip off his legs and Smith lost his off stump looking to sweep Mushtaq Ahmed. Stephenson pulled a long-hop to long leg. It was poor batting, but then Hampshire are a poor side.

They were unlucky in one sense. The Somerset catching was exceptional. Mascarenhas was well taken at mid-wicket by Trescothick. Stephenson was nicely held by Burns and Hartley was brilliantly caught by Reeve at extra cover. Aymes hesitated for too long over an unnecessary run. McLean's hitting was much needed and there were one or two straight drives from James that were notably stylish.

# SCOREBOARD FROM TAUNTON

HAMPSHIRE: G W White b Rose 6, J S Langley c Trescothick b Rose 0, R A Smith b Mushtaq 20, M Keach b Pearson 29, A D Mascarenhas c Trescothick 15, J P Stephenson c Burns b Trescothick 5, S D Udell c Pearson 10, K D James not out 20, T A M Aymes run out 0, P J Hartley c Reeve b Mushtaq 20, F A M McLean not out 28, Extras (lb 1, w, nb 0) 8. Total (9 wickets, 60 overs) 169. FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-19, 3-30, 4-77, 5-80, 6-88, 7-93, 8-123. BOWLING: Rose 6-2-10-2, Caddick 10-1-60-2, Mushtaq Ahmed 8-0-33-2, Reeve 6-0-18-2, Trescothick 9-0-28-2, Pearson 8-1-19-2.

SOMERSET: P D Bowler c Aymes b Udell 41, M Burns c end b McLean 0, R J Harden bow b James 89, G R Ross bow b Stephenson 14, R J Turner bow b Stephenson 15, K A Parsons not out 42, M E Trescothick not out 9, Extras (lb 7, w 11, nb 2) 20. Total (5 wickets, 43.5 overs) 170. D A Reeve, A R Caddick, A R K Pearson and Mushtaq Ahmed did not bat. FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-64, 3-101, 4-111, 5-133. BOWLING: McLean 6.3-0-54-1, Hartley 6-2-24-0, James 10-1-1-1, Stephenson 10-1-18-2, Udell 4-0-15-1, Mascarenhas 3-0-11-0. Gold award: G D Rose. Umpires: D A Sheppard and J F Stiles.

# Interpreter trapped on sticky wicket

Shaw wasn't mistaken when he wrote of England and the United States as countries separated by a common language. One of the tales that best illustrates his point is that of Groucho Marx's visit to Lord's. After an hour's play, he turned to his companion and said: "It's fine, but when do they start?" Mr Parkinson, of Barnsley-by-the-Thames, once undertook the mighty task of explaining the laws of the game to an American lady. After telling her who the batsman is and what the bowler does and generally trying to keep things simple, he thought he had pulled it off. Then she asked: "You mean they do all that on horseback?"

In other languages, misunderstandings are easier to excuse. A German production of the Harold Pinter play, *The Birthday Party*, had the line, "Who watered the wicket at Melbourne?" as "Who pissed on the city gates?" What would the Sausage-Eaters make of this, from a later Pinter play, *No Man's Land*: "Tell me with what speed she swung in the air, with what velocity she came off the wicket, whether she was responsive to finger spin, whether you could bowl a shooter with her, or an off break with a leg-break action. In other words, did she google?" Try getting away with that in Munich.

So it was with pleasure, and some trepidation, that your crimson chum sought to advance Anglo-American relations last week when he accompanied Sharon Robinson to Lord's. Ms Robinson, who works for the Major League Baseball Commission in Manhattan, is also the daughter of Jackie Robinson, who, 51 years ago, became the first coloured man to break into major league baseball, the tacit equivalent of breaching the Mason-Dixon Line.

She was staying in London with her long-standing friend, Candice, or Lady Rattle, as she doesn't call herself. With the assistance of Roger Knight, the secretary of MCC, these American ladies had a look round the Long Room

# Tour of the Long Room was easy bit

and admired the view from the top of the pavilion. That was the easy bit. Giving a brief exposition of the game, in a way that might make sense, proved more difficult. "What exactly," Candice asked, "is a sticky wicket?" Apparently, she moves in circles where people use the metaphor all the time ("Come on, I live in England") and she was stumped by it (whoops! there's another one). At least she didn't say, as Lady Thatcher once did, that "I shan't be ducking any bouncers", which are things that jolly well should be ducked. "Did you see *The Crying Game*?" I asked. There was a telling metaphor at the beginning of that film, when the cricket-loving British squaddie tells his Irish captor: "My father showed me to bow a googly before I was ten." A metaphor, and a signpost. To those people who were shocked when the Jaye Davidson character dropped his/her drawers at hour and a half later, don't say you weren't warned!

It turned out that Candice had some connection with cricket. As a student at Harvard, she took a course with C. L. R. James, who was born in Trinidad, lived in Brixton and is usually described as a "Marxist historian", although he is best known in cricket as the man Neville Cardus befriended and the author of *Beyond A Boundary*.

Another writer can help here. Paul Theroux, who lived for many years in England, admitted to feeling "hampered by my ignorance of cricket because I am aware that it is a metaphor everywhere in English life". Equally, there are Americans who tell you that in order to understand America, you must first get to grips with baseball. They may be distant cousins, these sports, but they both use a bat and ball and use an evocative vocabulary that reaches into the outside world.

It is not without significance that Philip Roth puts a star baseball player at the heart of his outstanding recent novel, *American Pastoral*, which explores the way America has changed in the past 50 years. American writers can get away with such things. If an English novelist used a cricket for that purpose, some smart-aleck critic (why does Lisa Jardine spring to mind?) would bray like a donkey and denounce the "little Englishness" of it all.

Never mind. Cricket, however untrendy, will survive the capping of a metropolitan clever-class. Staron Robinson left Lord's with a cricket ball, a copy of *Beyond A Boundary* to read on the EuroStar - and a secret wish to convert unbelievers to a different bat-and-ball game. But she didn't look too hopeful.



MICHAEL HENDERSON CRIMSON RAMBLER

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# Explaining game more difficult

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# Attendances so first division

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ancashire seamers out Minor Counties

# Image remains no substitute for a winning smile

I mean, really, it is cobbler, isn't it? Cobblers complete and utter. Showing complete misunderstanding of (a) sport and (b) the public. And, considering this is the head of a national sporting mission to improve the standing of his sport in the eyes of the public, this is unfortunate to say the least.

"Image is crucial," Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board, said. I believe Andre Agassi once said something very similar. Lord MacLaurin's role model, no doubt. Yesterday, England announced their new cricket captain — Alec Stewart. Why he and not another?

Presumably, he had the right image, leap-frogging over Nasser Hussain, the vice-captain last winter. Hussain does not have the

right image, being a touch temperamental. The question of who would do the actual job better does not seem to have come into account.

England captains have been going through a tough time of late. Lawrence Dallaglio, the rugby union captain, was roundly criticised in some quarters for his failure to shake hands with an opponent. Richard Corkery, after the England v Ireland game. Bad for the image of the game, old boy. Never mind that he had just won the triple crown: handshaking is what matters in life. The public greeted this nonsense with contempt or bewilderment.

Yesterday, the Football Association's disciplinary committee met to discuss the case of Alan Shearer, the England captain, to decide whether or not to proceed with the

case against him. He is accused of kicking an opponent, Neil Lennon, of Leicester City, in the face.

Shearer — now there is a captain whose image has taken a battering. Dreadful whingeing about the match between Stevenage Borough and his own team, Newcastle United. Laying out one of his own side on a boy's jaunt to Dublin. Increasing whippers of over-vigorous use of boot and elbow. Now this. Bad image: let's drop him from the World Cup squad, eh?

And a howl of dismay goes up at the very suggestion. Never mind the image. Shearer is the England goalscorer, the first name on the team-sheet, the man on whom England's hopes are built. He is a winner. His image is poor. His substance is considerable.

Punish him if he has sinned, but don't drop him because of his poor image. We admire rough-hewn, difficult, temperamental, even [England cricket remains

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

obsessed with this subject) unshaven winners more than we do squeaky, sound-bite specialist, spin-doctored, charming, plausible, barefaced liars. So poor old Alec gets the job. Always wears smart clothes. Very

handy with a razor. Keen to the point of lunacy. Willing to please beyond all commonsense. All he has to do now is to be his team's top batsman, its wicket-keeper and its leader.

And Alec would make the tea and sweep the changing-room as well, if asked, good egg that he is. True, England have lost half the matches in which he has kept wicket. True, his Test average as batsman is 47; his average as wicketkeeper-batsman is 32.

But never mind all that, because he has a good image. Michael Atherton, his predecessor, was thought to have had a bad image. Actually, he had nothing of the kind. Most people with sense knew he was a good sort doing his best at an impossible job.

He is a good talker one-to-one, but was always determinedly dull — a laager of one — in press conferences. His aim was to give the tabloids nothing to write about. He did not slag off umpires, his opponents, his team-mates,

even the team manager. So the tabloids made an image for him. Called him Cap'n Grumpy.

Stewart has been selected largely because they don't trust Hussain with the tabloids. We know that one inappropriate word makes a headline in 144 point bold. What if Hussain got temperamental with the tabs?

Those in authority in cricket criticise the tabloid press and then select captains on the basis of the tabloid press. They go on to make the even more stupid error of thinking that the tabloid press can be spin-doctored into saying nice things about the England team, because Alec is a good chap who shaves a lot.

I'll be your spin-doctor, my Lord. I'll give you an England cricket captain with a good image. I promise you, the tabloids will

love him unconditionally. All I need is a man who is a very good cricketer, one effortlessly capable of holding a place in the team on merit (even the sainted Mike Brearley suffered from image problems because of his lack of runs.)

Next, I need a world-class fast bowler. Finally, I would like a world-class wrist spinner. Given those things, I guarantee a captain with the image you require. Because he would keep on winning Test matches. Odd fact: no victorious captain has a bad image.

In politics, a good image brings you victory. In sport, it is precisely the other way round. No, my Lord, image is not crucial. It is a matter of total irrelevance. Image is crucial in politics, it is less than nothing in sport. In sport, we seek substance.

'Odd fact: no victorious captain has a bad image'

## Football: Moment of magic from Ronaldo can do trick for Inter

By BRIAN GIANVILLE

PIERLUIGI CASIRAGHI, not Alen Boksic, is expected to partner Roberto Mancini in the Lazio attack tonight at the Parc des Princes in the Uefa Cup final. Internazionale are the opposition in an all-Italian final that, perhaps, sees the Milanese team as marginal favourites.

Casiraghi, who is expected to join Chelsea shortly, will start because Boksic, Lazio's Croatia striker, was injured in the unexpected 1-0 defeat by relegated Lecce last Saturday. Sven-Goran Eriksson, the Swedish Lazio coach, has admitted that his side have switched off in the league since they lost an important match to Juventus a few weeks ago.

It may be as well that Boksic has dropped out, because a feud has developed between him and Pavel Nedved, the Czech Republic midfielder player, who has scored many decisive goals for Lazio this season. After a recent defeat in the league against Parma, Nedved criticised Boksic publicly for declaring himself unfit, then proceeding to play for Croatia three days later. Boksic responded bitterly, wishing Nedved, with more than a trace of irony, a happy summer, alluding to the fact that while Croatia will be contesting the World Cup finals, the Czech Republic have not qualified.

Casiraghi has said that he has banished all thoughts of a transfer abroad from his mind until after this game. Since Lazio have already acquired Marcelo Salas, the dazzling Chile striker, and Dejan Stankovic, the precocious Yugoslavia forward, it is taken for granted that Casiraghi will not be staying in Rome, while Boksic is expected to move to AC Milan.

The key to this game seems to lie, as it so often does, with Ronaldo. Inter's remarkable 21-year-old Brazilian striker. He has not scored in his past few games, however, was largely subdued by Argentina when Brazil lost in Rio last week and

was goalless again, when Inter were held to a 0-0 draw by Piacenza last Sunday.

He did Ronaldo score in that torrid affair against Juventus in Turin, which Juve won 1-0 to all but wrap up the Italian league title, nor he will not find the Lazio defence easy to penetrate. No longer are Lazio as riskily adventurous as they were under Zdenek Zeman, their former Czech coach. Nesta has developed into an international stopper; Chamot has been an Argentinean bulwark for a long time and Favalli is a powerful, adventurous left back.

Yet Ronaldo is so adept at making goals out of nothing, of gliding through a stunned defence to exploit through-passes, that anything could happen. It is likely that Youri Djorkaeff, so often a star at this Paris stadium, will support him initially, with Ivan Zamorano, the Chile striker, and Nwankwo Kanu, the tall Nigeria forward, waiting on the bench.

Inter, under the coaching of Gigi Simone, who was in serious danger of being dismissed before the Italian championship began, have abandoned the zonal defence that they practised so unashamedly under Roy Hodgson last season. Giuseppe Bergomi, their veteran captain, will play as

sweeper if he overcomes a thigh injury that he has been nursing for the past few weeks. Salvatore Fressi will deputise if Bergomi is ruled out.

It is generally agreed in Italy that Inter's parts are greater than the whole and that, just as it was under Hodgson, the team have not achieved a style or rhythm, relying on the moments of individual flair that Ronaldo, above all, is able to provide.

The emergence of Francesco Moriero on their right flank, however, has definitely given them more options, both in attack and midfield. Very much a late developer, Moriero, 29, arrived at Inter this season from Milan as a makeweight in a deal, since when he has excelled. Indeed, his recent display for Italy against Paraguay, when he scored twice, the second coming via a spectacular bicycle kick, has made him a certain choice for the World Cup squad.

There is a question over whether Guerinio Gottardi, the Swiss midfielder player will start the game for Lazio. It was his arrival late in the second leg of the Italian Cup final that enabled his team to turn the tables on Milan. A goal down on the night, and two behind on aggregate, Lazio achieved a 3-1 victory in the last ten minutes. Gottardi scoring one goal and making another.

If he and Nedved can burst through from midfield to score, so can Inter's tough little Argentinean international, Diego Simeone. Each side has an international goalkeeper: Luca Marchegiani, of Lazio, who had four seasons with Inter, and Gianluca Pagliuca, 31, who is in his fourth year in Milan. Nevertheless, Ronaldo is the player who could prove to be decisive.

Lazio (probable: 4-4-2): M. Marchegiani — J.A. Chirrotti, A. Nelsi, P. Negro, G. Favalli — D. Fressi, G. Verstraen, V. Zupovic, P. Nedved — R. Mancini, P. Casiraghi. Internazionale (probable: 1-3-4-2): G. Pagliuca — G. Bergomi — J.A. Zambetti, F. Colonna, T. West — P. Djorkaeff, G. Chamot, A. Winer, D. Simeone — Y. Djorkaeff, Ronaldo

Casiraghi: transfer talks



Dutch reign: Stam, the Holland defender, shelters under Alex Ferguson's umbrella as he acclimatises to conditions at Old Trafford

## Stam's arrival helps to lift the gloom

A gloomy Tuesday afternoon, drizzle falling incessantly from a steel grey sky. Must be Manchester then. Jaap Stam's introduction to Old Trafford was predictable enough yesterday, as the weather put on its darkest face to welcome the £10.75 million signing.

"I suppose I'll have to get used to this," the defender joked, as he sheltered under an oversized umbrella (from the United range, obviously), for pictures with his new manager. But, really, it could have been raining cats and dogs and the Holland international would not have noticed, such was his delight actually to be there.

"It has always been my dream to come here, and that is the honest truth," he said. "As a boy, I always had a love for Manchester United and I always wanted to play here.

David Maddock finds the world's most expensive defender relishing the fulfilment of a boyhood dream

Now that I am, it's a great feeling. They paid a lot of money for me, so I know I have to do well. But I know I will."

Of course, such words are commonly spoken under such circumstances, even by foreign players with no obvious English links, but, if Stam's motives are to be questioned, then first listen to Martin Edwards, the Manchester United chairman, who conducted negotiations over a seven-year contract worth in excess of £12 million.

"I have to say they were the easiest negotiations I've ever been involved in," he revealed. "Jaap is someone who is desperate to play for

Manchester United and he actually gave up a lot of money to come here. We had a clause in his contract that entitled him to 15 per cent of the fee and he has given up a lot of that."

Stam has the confident nature of a man assured of his own ability, but the question most commonly posed yesterday as he met the press concerned himself with his ability to cope with the pressure of being the world's most expensive defender. From Holland, the answer is yes, and that was echoed at Old Trafford yesterday.

"The money doesn't bother me and it shouldn't bother Jaap," Alex Ferguson, the manager, said. "We have

brought him here for his best years. He's only 25 and still maturing, but we have him until he's 32 and he could play beyond that."

The player will not actually sign until the end of the season, although he successfully completed a medical yesterday. It was a day for talking, as the combined weight of the Dutch and English media was squeezed into the Europa Suite at Old Trafford to greet him.

If he was impressed, then he displayed no obvious signs, but then coming from PSV Eindhoven, he was unlikely to be overawed. The stadium in Holland where he is used to playing boasts facilities that

would embarrass even Old Trafford and entertains a team to match. Yet Stam has no regrets.

"I think it is the right move for me. I wanted to come to England because I think it would improve me as a defender," he said. "I know all about English football and I believe they have talented defenders. It was the only place I wanted to go, despite many offers."

Edwards, expressing his satisfaction over a good day's work, expects to be able to announce more exciting news for United's supporters after their disappointment at losing the title to Arsenal. "We have made a bid for Marc-Vivien Foe, the Lens defender, and we are still waiting to hear if it has been accepted, but we are confident," he said. United have offered £2.5 million to the French club.

## Attendances soar for first division clubs

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

FOOTBALL LEAGUE crowds reached their highest level for more than 50 years during the 1997-98 season. A total of 13,588,561 spectators watched matches in the three divisions of the Nationwide League — the largest number since the 1971-72 campaign and a rise of 13.2 per cent from last year.

Attendances in the first division, in which the average gate was 15,078, rose by 20.1 per cent, while, in the second division, they were up 8.9 per cent. The third division showed a decline, going down by 5.2 per cent.

There was less happy news for Jan Sorensen, the Walsall manager, who was dismissed yesterday after only one season in charge at the Bescot Stadium. His two-year contract was terminated after Walsall finished in nineteenth place in the second division, only four points clear of relegation.

Walsall defeated Nottingham Forest, the first division champions, and Sheffield United in the Coca-Cola Cup and reached the southern final of the Auto Windscreens Shield.

## Wright presses England claims

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

IAN WRIGHT will start his first match since mid-January for Arsenal, the FA Carling Premiership champions, against Liverpool tonight, but Arsene Wenger, the manager, will rest a number of players at Anfield who were key figures in winning the title, including Tony Adams, the captain, David Seaman, the England goalkeeper, and Marc Overmars, the Holland winger.

The match has lost almost any meaning for Arsenal, other than, perhaps, extending the celebrations that began after they took the title by beating Everton 4-0 on Sunday. However, Liverpool, who won 1-0 at Highbury earlier in the season, can still finish third in the table.

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, needs a victory, not least because he does not want to pale further in comparison with the man sitting on the opposing bench. "We can't get into the Champions' League now, but we have to ensure as high a finish as possible and ensure that we get into the Uefa Cup," he said yesterday. "It has been a disappointment not being in-

involved in the title run-in, but we have to keep going."

One more win from their remaining two games will give Evans his third place. He has asked Steve McNamara to play to ensure that he gets it, but the England forward is still finding discomfort from an ankle problem and requires another few days' rest to be fully fit.

So, too, does Jamie Redknapp. The midfielder player wants to play to put himself in contention for the England squad that is to be announced early next week. A knee ligament injury has jeopardised his prospects of going to the World Cup finals in June, with Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, suggesting that he needs to play again this season to stand a chance.

"I'm nearly ready, I am running now and will be back in training by the end of the week," Redknapp said yesterday. "I won't play against Arsenal, but I have a good chance of making the Derby game on Sunday. Of course I want to play, I have been in good form and I feel I am ready to go to the World Cup if needed."

Wright, too, is desperate to

play and Wenger is keen for the 34-year-old forward to press his England claims, affording him 15 minutes as a substitute on Sunday in his comeback after four months out with hamstring, knee and groin injuries.

Wenger said: "I still think Ian has a lot to offer. He says he wants to stay at Arsenal for two more years and be a reserve if necessary. But I think, if anything, he is being a little too humble at present. He knows that at his age he will not play all the games next season, but I think he can



Wright: World Cup goal

still be ready to fight for a place and I am happy to have his commitment."

Alex Manning will return tonight in place of Seaman, who has a back strain, while Gilles Grimandi and Steve Bould are likely to take over from Adams and Martin Keown.

Meanwhile, Nicolas Anelka, Wright's likely partner in attack, was included yesterday in the preliminary 28-man France squad for the World Cup, having made his international debut only last month in Sweden. Aimé Jacquet, the France coach, must reduce the squad to 22 by June 2, but Anelka's surprise selection completes a memorable week for the Arsenal forward after the title success on Sunday. He is joined in the squad by Emmanuel Petit and Patrick Vieira, his team-mates, who have been in outstanding form.

Bernard Lama, the West Ham United goalkeeper, and Frank Leboeuf, of Chelsea, now regulars in the France squad, have also been chosen, but there was no place for David Ginola, the Tottenham Hotspur winger, nor for Marc Koller, of West Ham.

## Notts aims to tie up £3 million investment

By JASON NISSE

NOTTS COUNTY, the oldest club in the Football League, is looking for a backer to put £3 million into the club. The move follows County's success in winning the Nationwide League third division championship.

Derek Pavis, the chairman, has asked the accountants BDO Stoy Hayward to find investors. "If we get the £3 million, it will be a good result," Robert Matustewicz, of BDO, said. "For that amount of money, we can offer an investor a major, controlling interest."

Pavis, who joined County in the 1980s after being a director of Nottingham Forest, believes the investment will be enough to see County gain promotion to the first division.

County can offer potential investors a strong balance sheet and is likely to make a profit on the 1997-98 season. Its figures up to March show the club to be £600,000 in the black for the first nine months of the year, largely due to profits on selling players. Wolverhampton Wanderers

have given given free transfers to Tony Daley, the former England winger, and Dariusz Kubicki, the former Poland defender. Daley has played fewer than 20 games in four years since Graham Taylor made him the club's record signing, at £1.3 million.

He has been plagued by knee trouble and, when he finally returned in the middle of the season, he suffered a thigh problem. Kubicki, signed from Sunderland on a free transfer at the start of the season, has recently been on loan at Tranmere Rovers. Wolves have also given free transfers to Chris Westwood and Richard Leadbeter.

The new Scottish Premiership became a reality yesterday after the Scottish Football Association formally approved the historic change. The first new professional league in Scotland for 108 years will kick off next season with ten clubs. This follows a decision taken yesterday by the SFA Council and members to ratify their executive committee's approval of the proposal of the breakaway clubs.

SNOOKER: WORLD CHAMPION PAYS TRIBUTE TO FORMER SPARRING PARTNER

Higgins takes his cue from Hendry

By Phil Yates

JOHN HIGGINS, the latest player to have his name engraved on the Embassy world championship trophy...

The positive influence has been Stephen Hendry, a practice partner of Higgins during his impressionable teenage years...

FINAL DETAILS

John Higgins beat Ken Doherty 18-12 (best of 35 frames)

FRAME SCORES (Higgins first) 34-73, 80-20, 65-7, 71-1, 115-0, 79-52, 134-0, 88-0, 112-7, 66-18, 67-66, 103-4, 86-5, 138-0, 70-82, 39-90, 89-0, 6-61, 130-0, 83-1, 92, 58-44, 44-52, 69-14, 125-0, 71-38, 41-78, 96-16, 119-6

£1,383,632 in prize-money, was undoubtedly nurtured by drubbings from Hendry at Spencers snooker centre, Stirling.

"Stephen was always the first into the club, even though he'd already won world titles by then," Higgins said.

"I did have a nightmare with the cue, but there was more to my bad form than that," Higgins admitted.

Higgins had begun to spend a fair amount of time socialising with friends at pubs and discos.

Armed with a cue with which he at last felt comfortable and rededicated to his goal of developing into the game's most dominant force...

He has won the German Open, the Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge and the British Open, was runner-up in the Grand Prix, Malta Grand Prix, Regal Welsh Open and Regal Scottish Open...

With the £220,000 that he collected for trumping all his previous honours by winning the world championship...

game on visits to the Masters club. Wishaw, with Jason, his elder brother. Soon, it became impossible to assuage his appetite for potting and, with free practice time on offer at the Masters, Glasgow, Higgins moved there.

In January 1991, Higgins, then 15, first underlined his potential by winning the televised junior tournament at the World Masters. It was a strong field that included players such as Ronnie O'Sullivan and Mark Williams...

Higgins believes that, because of the strength in depth in snooker, it will not be possible for anyone to dominate as Davis did in the Eighties and Hendry for most of the Nineties.

That may be true, but in order to capturing the world title, Higgins constructed 14 century breaks, surpassing the previous Crucible best of 12 set by Hendry in 1995.



Prize guy: Higgins plants a kiss on the Embassy world championship trophy

World Masters. It was a strong field that included players such as Ronnie O'Sullivan and Mark Williams, but Higgins displayed the unflappable temperament for which he has become known.

Higgins has now triumphed in 11 professional events, nine of which have carried world ranking points, joining John Parrott and White in joint-third place on the list of most prolific ranking-tournament winners behind Davis, with 28, and Hendry, on 29.

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TELEVISION CHOICE The Italian job, in Paris?

Uefa Cup Final BBC1, 7.30pm

David Ginola makes his debut as a BBC football pundit when he joins Desmond Lynam and Alan Hansen in the studio for a dissection of the all-Italian Uefa Cup final between Rome's Lazio and Inter Milan...



Pundit: David Ginola

The One Where Johnny Makes Friends Channel 4, 9.00pm

If, like me, you have never been able to get more than five minutes into the American sitcom Friends, this harem-scarem report on the show's London sojourn will leave you no wiser...

Aviators: Fellowship of the Air BBC2, 9.30pm

Via archive, witness, expertise and poetics (Auden), this misty but well-grounded series about the first flight ends with last week's opener...

media, suffers the kidnap and death of his son and becomes an apologist for the Nazis. Italo Balbo rises through the blacklists to become Mussolini's air minister and so stamp his eccentric discipline on all things related to Italy's conduct of combat in the skies...

The Money Programme: The Sex Trade BBC2, 11.15pm

Toby Sculthorp's programme, the passage of which is greatly smoothed by having a woman reporter in Janet Heaney, looks at what he calls the "explosion" in heterosexual prostitution in western Europe...

Frontiers: Some of our Universe is Missing Radio 4, 9.02pm

The number of people who find fascination in astronomical matters is probably matched by the number who, like me, could scarce care less how many rings Saturn has...

Reith Lecture: Can There Be An End to War? Radio 4, 8.02pm

There was a hullabaloo when this year's Lectures were announced, not so much about the lecturer (John Keegan) as about the format...

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 In the Valley 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Welford 6.30 The Evening Session 8.30 Move Update 8.40 John Peel 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 11.00am Charlie Jordan 4.00 Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

FM: 88-90.2 MHz 6.00am Steve Wright 7.30 Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Throver 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Nick Barracough 8.00 Mike Harding 9.00 Andy Peebles Soul Show 10.00 Johnnie Walker 10.30 Richard Ainslie 12.00am Steve Mauden 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News 1.00pm Ruscoe and Co 4.00 Nationwide with Janie Jones 2.00pm News 4.00 News 5.00 News 6.00 John Inverdale's Football Night Liverpool v Arsenal 6.00 Premiership and news of the UEFA cup final. Plus, the National Lottery draw 10.00 Littlejohn 11.00 Late Night Live 1.00am Up All Night with Phred Sharp 6.00 Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

FM: 105.8 MHz; MW: 1197, 1215 kHz 7.00am Chris Evans 10.00 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Robin Barter 6.45 (FM) London Calling 7.30 Ray Cobbs 10.00 Paul Coyte 2.00am Caimin Jones 5.00 Jeremy Clark

TALK RADIO

MW: 1063, 1089 kHz 6.00am Kirsty Young with Bill Overton 8.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Anna Raeburn 9.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins 5.00 The Early Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny 9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobbey. Vaughan Williams: Fantasia on 'Greensleeves' (Orpheus Chamber Orchestra), 9.30 Schumann: Drei Fantasiestücke (Shura Cherkassky, piano), 9.18 Edgar: Faustfall (LSO/Anthony Collins), 9.53 Victoria: O magnum mysterium (Westminster Cathedral Choir/David Hill), 9.59 Schubert: Symphony No 3 in C (Göteborg SO/Neeme Järvi) 10.30 Artist of the Week: Samuel Ramey 11.00 Sound Stories: Conductors' Corner A profile of Lech Szymanek made in the Philadelphia Orchestra world famous and also had a flirtation with Hollywood, appearing in 'Fantasia', 'The Big Broadcast of 1937' and 'One Hundred Men and a Girl'. Including Bach, orch. Szymanek; Toccata and Fugue in D minor (Czech Philharmonic), Mussorgsky, orch. Szymanek; A Night on the Bare Mountain (Philadelphia Orchestra) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Johann Strauss (son) 1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Emperor Quartet, Cowell (String Quartet No 4, United), Beethoven (String Quartet in F minor), Dvořák (Waltz No 1 in A) (f)

RADIO 4

6.00am Today Includes 6.58, 7.55 Weather 7.25, 8.25 Sports News 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.25 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament 9.00 Midweek with the Times columnist Libby Purves 9.45 (LW) Daily Service 9.45 (FM) Service: Telling the Workers about Science: The Colour of Radium by Eve Currie. The remarkable scientific pioneer, Marie Curie, devoted her life to the purification of radium. Her efforts led to the breakthrough that gave us today's Marie Curie Cancer Care organisation. Read by Rachel Atkins. (3/5) 10.00 News: Women's Hour with Jenni Murray. Postcard: Breathing Underwater by Bryony Lavery. (3/5) 11.00 Hardboard Hotel A profile of the Europe Hotel in Belfast (f) 11.30 Cartoons, Lampoons and Buffoons Humphrey Carpenter presents the last of a five-part exploration of political satire 12.00 (FM) News; You and Yours 12.57pm Weather 12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast 1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke 1.30 Guess Who? Barry Took presents a revised version of the popular radio parlour game of Twenty Questions. Regular team member Geoffrey Durham is joined by Dick Vosburgh and Hattie Hayridge 2.00 News; The Archers (f) 2.15 Afternoon Play: Roberto Sullars by Katie Hims. A nine-year-old girl, in need of help, writes to her hero. With Sarah Tringle and Christopher Homer 3.00 News; Gardeners' Question Time (f) 3.30 Higby's Red Herring (3/5) 3.45 I Speak Live with Vishnu Prabhakar and read by Swi Grewal 4.00 News; Case Notes with Graham Easton (f) 4.30 Thinking Allowed with Laurie Taylor and guest 5.00 PM 5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast 5.57 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 I'm Glad You're Here! A comedy guide to surviving the millennium 7.00 News; The Archers 7.15 Front Row Mark Lawson assesses reaction to the new stage version of Saturday Night Fever 7.45 Postcard: Breathing Underwater (3/5) (f) 8.00 News; The 1998 Reith Lectures: Can There Be an End to War? The 50th season of Reith Lectures is concluded by the military historian John Keegan. From the Radio Theatre at Broadcasting House in London North Vietnam (4/4) (f) 9.00 News; Frontiers: Some of Our Universe is Missing Unless scientists can find almost ten times more matter than we currently know about, we may have to abandon our current theories 9.30 Midweek (f) 10.00 The World Tonight 11.00 Late Night on 4; Peepshow Like Us with Chris Langham, Caroline Strong and Selly Phelps (f) 11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament 11.30 (FM) First Impressions with Pete McCarthy (f) 12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Panther in the Basement by Arnos Oz, read by Alfred Moira (3/5) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service 5.30 World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day 5.47 Farming Today with Anna Hill

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 87.5-99.3, RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2, RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4, RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.9, LW 162, MW 720, RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 683, 908, WORLD SERVICE, MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-6.55am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102, VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO, MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

NEWSFLASH: INTELLIGENT LIFEFORM FOUND ON BREAKFAST SHOW.



If you want a radio show that doesn't send you back to sleep in the morning, wake up to the new talk radio breakfast. Every weekday Kirsty Young and Bill Overton bring you up to date with what's going on in the world - through an entertaining mix of news, discussions and humour. So tune in between 6:30am and 9:00am, for a much more substantial breakfast. The new talk radio breakfast 1053/1089am

كندا من الأصل

# Out in the desert, beyond reach of parody

**L**as Vegas isn't all bad. If it weren't for Las Vegas, Engelbert Humperdinck might still be trying to make a living in Britain, looming out at us alarmingly from prime-time television shows hosted by Des O'Connor, and still drawing about how he had "the last dance with you, two lonely people together". As it was, Las Vegas took a gamble on Humperdinck. It was one of those rare days when the house lost. To be fair to him, Engelbert doesn't forget a friend. He told Clive James in *Postcard From Las Vegas* (ITV) last night that he missed the days when Las Vegas (have you noticed how it takes a certain type of city to be known just by half of its name, such as Vegas, Rio, or Firenze?) it with Hemel Hempstead and it just doesn't work) was run by the Mob. "They were very nice to me," he told Clive as they sat in the back

seat of a limo that had been stretched so far that its bonnet was halfway across the neighbouring state of Arizona. "They'd join in from the crowd. You could see them out there in the audience, mouthing along." But what were the mobsters mouthing? Engelbert? Maybe all they were saying was: "How much do we pay this guy to sing in a way that ensures the punters will yearn to hurry back to the roulette tables?"

The problem for a wisecracker like James is that it's hard to take the mickey out of Las Vegas. It does the job so well itself. Las Vegas knows it is ludicrous. The minute it realised this, it was smart enough to make a virtue of its vulgarity. All you can do is point the camera. Commentary is superfluous, like overlaying a soundtrack of dirty talk on a porno movie. Not that there weren't questions anyone might want to ask. For example, the

question that a sane person might want to ask at Norm "Elvis" Jones's instant wedding chapel (in Las Vegas people marry, as they gamble, on impulse): "What makes a person wake up one morning and say to themselves, 'Let's get married today by a fat Elvis Presley lookalike?'"

But Norm was a pro, deftly combining the solemnity of a wedding ceremony with the cheeky half-smile of a Michael Barrymore. His customers were enjoying themselves, too. "Dan," said Dan, taking close instruction from Norm, "take you, Rachel, for I want ya, and I need ya, because I luv ya bebbly and I'll always luv ya tender. And I promise I'll never leave you at Heartbreak Hotel. And I also promise never to treat you moody blue or have suspicious minds." Rachel was, if anything, even gamier in apeing Norm's preposterous accent, agreeing to

## REVIEW



Joe Joseph

"take thee, Dan, as ma hunka hunka burnin' luv and promise to always love you tender and never return you to sender. I'll never stop your blue suede shoes, for you'll always be my lovin' teddy bear." Norm, very sweetly, never made them repeat "Wise men say, only fools rush in."

If all this makes you think of Las Vegas as a godless place, Richard Bradley's film for *Timewatch*

(BBC2) was able to reassure us that the gambling capital of the world has never been far from Jesus: because Las Vegas, it turns out, is not so much a temple to Mammam as a temple to Mormons.

We all thought that it was Bugsy Siegel who built "Sin City", but it seems to have been astute Mormon bankers' descendants of Mormons who had travelled west to escape religious persecution who bankrolled the mobsters who built the casinos. First the Ommonds, then Engelbert Humperdinck. No wonder Bugsy Siegel made sure those slot machines made such a jangling noise: it drowned out the sound of native Las Vegas music. When Howard Hughes arrived in 1966 he made sure he never heard anyone sing by installing himself in the Desert Inn Hotel, where he became a hermit. When the Desert Inn asked for the suite back, Hughes—who had turned into an emaciated,

long-haired Moses lookalike—bought the hotel, and then a few more, dealing only through Mormons because he believed they would behave honestly.

The lesson in all this is that everybody who comes to Las Vegas can make serious money: Mormons, Mob, Hughes, Humperdinck and drive-in marriage parlours. Everybody, in fact, except the gamblers. "That's the brilliant achievement of Las Vegas," said Clive James. "Rather than robbing people, they've created the perfect surroundings for people to rob themselves."

asking about tickets for Glastonbury and showing off her track marks. La Plante deserves some credit for applying her talent for suspense and controversy to the world of online pornography, cyber-fantasy and not-so-virtual murder; but not much. Not so far, anyway.

So far? Scott (Tom Williams), a psychology student, has got tangled with a sexy, computer-literate drug addict who calls herself "Rich Bitch" (Cathy Brolly). They met in an Internet chat-room. Like much else to do with the Internet, progress is slow. After an hour we've only just reached the foothills of interactive Internet vice. La Plante's track record should guarantee that the suspense will pick up once she's got all the newly researched cyber-cliches out of her system. But you might need to pop a couple of those new Viagra pills to maintain your enthusiasm until next week's episode.

- BBC**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (66631)
  - 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (10877)
  - 9.00 Change That An odd school desk gets a new lease of life (8442709)
  - 9.25 Kilroy (1460472)
  - 10.05 A Day with Fats Presented by Esther McVey and Jonathan Cairns (7128176)
  - 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (8578877)
  - 10.55 The Really Useful Show Consumer Advice (1) (4558032)
  - 11.35 The General Behind the scenes of Southampton General Hospital (851322)
  - 12.00 News (T) regional news and weather (8217896)
  - 12.05pm The Entertainment Game (8163525)
  - 12.35 Wipeout (439524)
  - 1.00 News (T) and weather (13964)
  - 1.30 Regional News (T) (13004490)
  - 1.40 The Weather Show (22414148)
  - 1.45 Neighbours (T) (9507490)
  - 2.10 Ironside Detective adventure, with guest star Bill Bixby (1) (9323902)
  - 3.00 Through the Keyhole (5032)
  - 3.30 Playdays (4664867) 3.50 Hubbub (8578977) 4.05 The Family Ness (1) (5002325) (3631457) 4.35 The Demon Headmaster. Last in series (1) (1356167) 5.00 Newsround (1) (918865) 5.10 Blue Peter. The 50th anniversary of the Blue Peter locomotive (1) (8580167)
  - 5.35 Neighbours (1) (129148)
  - 6.00 News (T) and weather (1167)
  - 6.30 Regional News (T) (419)
  - 7.00 Junior Masterchef Young contestants from the North East of England; the guest judges are Olympic hurdler Sally Gunnell and chef Anton Patterson (1) (2411)
  - 7.30 **Match of the Day** Kick-off: Cup Final Lazio v Inter Milan (7.45pm) Desmond Lynam introduces coverage from the new Stade de France, near Paris, as the Serie A rivals from Rome and Milan contest Europe's first club final of the season (T) Continues after the National Lottery (80964)
  - 8.30 The National Lottery Draw Simply Red perform live (1) (783438)
  - 8.40 Match of the Day Live: UEFA Cup Final Lazio v Inter. Second-half action (1) (9390438)

- 6.10am Velocity Diagrams (3709964) 6.35 Computers in Conversation (5900235)
- 7.00 Teletubbies (1) (5126212) 7.25 Tom and Jerry Kids (9158419) 7.50 The Lovellans (1) (7225896) 8.15 Yogi's Treasure Hunt (1) (9826542) 8.35 The GreedySausus Gang (1) (2728506) 8.45 The Record (4497896) 9.10 Belief Film (2525777) 9.30 Pathways of Belief (7893222) 9.45 What's the Picture (7885877) 10.00 Teletubbies (1) (50622) 10.30 Numberline (6788187) 10.45 Cats' Eyes (6776322) 11.00 Folk Dance (8510186)
- 11.20 The Geography Programme (2126525) 11.40 Watch Out (9988254) 11.55 Hands Up! (5343525) 12.10pm Taking Issue (3121438)
- 12.30 Working Lunch (83896)
- 1.00 Dilly the Dinosaur (1) (14789457) 1.05 Bananaman (1) (14798728) 1.10 The Countryside Hour (1) (1188631)
- 2.10 Flightline Featuring flying lessons in a Mig 29, helicopter acrobatics in the Westland Lynx, solar-powered flight and a display of rare First World War planes (7923311) 2.40 News (T) 2.45 Westminster (1) (6213322) 3.55 News (T) 4.00 Real Rooms (490490) 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (8590877) 4.55 Esther: A Brush with Death (1) (8910964) 5.30 Today's the Day (896)
- 6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (461893)
- 6.45 Sliders (784347)
- 7.30 Counterblast: Journey to Death Professor Dora Finlay explores attitudes toward death and dying. Last in series (1) (273)
- 8.00 Antonio Carluccio's Southern Italian Feast: Calabria and Basilicata last in series (1) (7831)
- 8.30 Home Front An alternative to the conventional fitted kitchen; a toddler's bedroom (1) (3438)
- 9.00 Staptoe and Son (1) (1) (3032)

- GMTV (9086963)**
- 9.25 This Morning (1) (9141916)
  - 9.30 Vanessa (1) (2693025)
  - 10.10 This Morning (1) (28415341)
  - 12.15pm Regional News (6420506)
  - 12.30 News (T) and weather (50322)
  - 1.00 Shortland Street (55772) 1.30 Home and Away (1) (59633) 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (3449438) 2.45 Waffle (1) (45148)
  - 3.15 News (T) (3634525)
  - 3.20 Regional News (1) (3631438)
  - 3.25 Potamus Park (1) (3614761) 3.35 Titch (8582728) 3.45 Paddington Bear (1) (282728) 3.50 Kipper (1) (2913693) 4.00 The Wombles (8532325) 4.15 Jumpy (1) (1492244) 4.35 How 2 (1) (1352983) 4.55 Cartoon Time (7637362)
  - 5.10 WALES: PrimeTime Diary The arts and entertainment scene in Wales (8643728)
  - 5.10 Sorted Teenagers tell each other how to handle life (8643728)
  - 5.40 News (T) and weather (314380)
  - 6.00 Home and Away (1) (59633)
  - 6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (842631)
  - 6.25 HTV Weather (571815)
  - 6.30 The West Tonight (815)
  - 7.00 Emmerdale Stars fight to reverse his fortunes (1) (2703)
  - 7.30 Coronation Street The doctor warns Liz and Steve that a difficult decision must be made (1) (159)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
  - 1.00pm A Country Practice (35772)
  - 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (9166083)
  - 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (6843728)
  - 6.25-7.00 Central News (642631)
  - 11.40 Midnight Caller (432964)
  - 2.30am If I Were You (20216)
  - 3.00 Vanessa (2681649)
  - 4.05 Central JobInn '98 (7769002)
  - 5.20 Aslan Eye (1504668)
- WESTGOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except:
  - 12.27pm-12.30 Illuminations (9221099)
  - 1.00 Emmerdale (35772)
  - 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (9166083)
  - 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (6843728)
  - 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (86341)
  - 11.40 Renegade (432964)
- As HTV West except:**
- 12.15-12.30 Meridian News and Weather (8402506)
  - 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (6843728)
  - 6.00 Meridian Tonight (235)
  - 6.30-7.00 Doing It Up (815)
  - 5.00am Freecrunch (19007)
- As HTV West except:**
- 1.00pm-1.30 Surprise Chefs (35772)
  - 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (6843728)
  - 6.23 Anglia Weather (572544)
  - 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (642631)
  - 11.40 Swift Justice (432964)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 5.55am Sesame Street (1) (59341)
  - 7.00 The Big Breakfast (1) (36815)
  - 9.00 Chicken Every Sunday (1) (1949) With Dan Dailey and Celeste Holm. Light comedy set in a small American town. Directed by George Seaton (58667815)
  - 10.45 Spacebusome Stunning pictures of the Earth courtesy of NASA (6761490)
  - 11.00 Australia Wild (1) (1) (8964) 11.30 Powerhouse (9693) 12.00 Sesame Street (22051) 12.30pm I Dream of Jeannie (58664)
  - 1.00 Late Lunch (1) (39902)
  - 1.30 The Big Day Amanda is keeping her dress a big secret from Peter until the big day (1) (57235)
  - 2.00 Racing from Chester Brough Scott introduces live coverage of the 2,10, 2.40, 3.10 (The Chester Cup) and 3.45 races (8490)
  - 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (1) (728) 4.30 Countdown (1) (1342506) 4.55 Ricki Lake: We've Just Got Married and We're Already in Trouble (1) (6905032)
  - 5.30 Pet Rescue Today's programme visits a second centre in the new series, the Woodside Centre, Leicester (1) (964)
  - 6.00 Late Lunch with Michael Barrymore (877)
  - 6.30 Friends: The One With the Prom Video (1) (1) (457)
  - 7.00 Channel 4 News (1) (205418)
  - 7.50 Photo '98 Quit, depicting female suffrage and the Rwandan conflict (1) (483822)
  - 8.00 Brookside Gemma's secret is out, can Mick repair his relationship with his daughter? Lindsay admits she doesn't love Peter 100 per cent but she wants him back (1) (9096)
  - 8.30 Chef for a Night Punjabi sisters-in-law take over the Barnda restaurant in Wilmson, Cheshire (3/6) (1) (8506)

- CHANNEL 5**
- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**
- Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are: picture, 10.52075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz.
- 6.00am 5 News Early (3582709)
  - 7.00 WorldWatch: The Shrinking Earth (1/10) How technology and global business expansion are making the world seem smaller (1) (1) (3789070)
  - 7.30 Milkshake! (361454) 7.35 Wizzle's House (7564815) 8.00 HavaKava (1158506) 8.30 Dappledown Farm (1158577) 9.00 Waters of the Orient (1) (1) (1172457) 9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (1) (993032)
  - 10.20 Sunset Beach (8524821) 11.10 Lesza (8445611) 12.00 5 News (1152693) 12.30pm Family Affairs (849051) 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (3766341) 1.30 Sons and Daughters (8488232)
  - 2.00 Open House with Gloria Hunniford with John Timpon, the foreteller of Radio 4's Today programme (3453148)
  - 3.00 100 Per Cent Gold (1123341)
  - 3.30 Stop, You're Killing Me (1953) Rare Broderick Crawford comedy, based on a Damon Runyon story and set during Prohibition, with Claire Trevor and Virginia Gibson. Roy Del Ruth directs (381018)
  - 5.10 The Oprah Winfrey Show (9391506)
  - 6.00 100 Per Cent (2958457)
  - 6.30 Family Affairs (2957709)
  - 7.00 5 News (1115322)
  - 7.30 Waters of the Orient: Tidal Heartbeat in the Mangroves Exploring the mangroves of Hironoto, the southernmost of the Japanese islands. Last in series (1) (2946833)
  - 8.00 The Pepsi Chart (1124070)

**IB: Subsequent programmes are subject to delay and alteration**

- 9.44 National Lottery Update (1) (262254)
- 9.45 News (T) and weather (514341)
- 9.15 Silver (1993) Erotic thriller, Sharon Stone becomes an instant sex icon as she investigates an advanced New York apartment block and is secretly under surveillance by an obsessive neighbour (William Baldwin). Directed by Philip Nozce (1) (258790)
- 1.55 He Said, She Said (1991) Kevin Bacon and Elizabeth Perkins play former lovers who meet on an audience-participation television chat show. Also starring Sharon Stone, Anthony LaPaglia and Nathan Lane. Directed by Ken Kwapis and Marisa Silver (1) (218457)
- 4.5am Weather (3525991)
- 5.0 BBC News 24

**VIDEO Plus+ and VIDEO Plus+ codes**

The numbers after each programme are for VIDEO Plus+ programming. Just add the VIDEO Plus+ number for the relevant programme to your video recorder for easy taping.

- 1 more details call 0900 900 900 on 0640 750710. All charges at 25p per minute at all times.
- VIDEO Plus+ is a registered trademark of Genstar Entertainment Corporation. © 1998

**8.00 Midsomer Murders: Death in Disguise**

Feature-length episode of the murder mystery series, with John Nettles as Detective Inspector Barnaby Rudge. Barnaby investigates when the tranquillity at a commune is shattered by some violent and unexplained deaths (1) (6047)

**10.00 News (T) and weather (32438)**

**10.30 Regional News (781167)**

**10.40 Wednesday Night Live** Nicky Campbell and Mary Nightingale invite guests involved in the week's most-discussed news stories to put their case before a studio audience (409341)

**11.40 Highlander (862032)**

**12.40 Descending Angel (1990)** Thriller with George C. Scott, Diane Lane and Eric Roberts. A father's world is turned upside down when his daughter's fiancé begins to suspect that he was a Nazi officer at a concentration camp during the Second World War. Directed by Jeremy Kagan (697552)

**2.25 If I Were You (1) (1711246)**

**2.55 Vanessa (1) (1) (1037303)**

**3.35 Cybernet (8502842)**

**4.00 Coach (3726687)**

**4.25 TV Nightstand (8091378)**

**5.00 Coronation Street (1) (19007)**

**5.30 News (61397)**



**As HTV West except:**

- 1.00pm-1.30 Surprise Chefs (35772)
- 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (6843728)
- 6.23 Anglia Weather (572544)
- 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (642631)
- 11.40 Swift Justice (432964)

**Starts: 7.00am The Big Breakfast (36815)**

- 9.00 **FLM: Chicken Every Sunday** (58667815)
- 10.45 The Hunt (8761490)
- 11.00 Australia Wild (8964)
- 11.30 Powerhouse (9693)
- 12.00pm Ricki Lake (22051)
- 12.30 Sesame Street (59364)
- 1.00 Slot Meltrinn (11839438)
- 1.15 Smot y Ci (11826983)
- 1.30 The Big Day (57235)
- 2.00 Racing from Chester (8490)
- 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (1) (728)
- 4.30 Countdown (612)
- 5.00 5 Pump (9558728)
- 5.15 Ffeli (4968380)
- 5.30 Pet Rescue (964)
- 6.00 Newyddiad (6229902)
- 6.10 Heno (476525)
- 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (158815)
- 7.25 Fferm (660983)
- 8.00 Hawilo (9089)
- 8.30 Newyddiad (8506)
- 9.00 Ffraser (8728)
- 9.30 Friends (78728)
- 10.00 Brookside (691781)
- 10.35 The One Where Johnny Makes Friends (80812)
- 11.35 Whose Line Is It Anyway? (874188)
- 12.10am King of the Rajahs (3242200)
- 12.25 Under the Moon (3726687)
- 2.30 NBA XXL (83939)
- 4.30 Gamesmaster (80216)
- 5.00 Dhredd (1182552)

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**12.25 Under the Moon (3726687)**

**2.30 NBA XXL (83939)**

**4.30 Gamesmaster (80216)**

**5.00 Trans World Sport (1192552)**

**9.00 The One Where Johnny Makes Friends** Johnny Vaughn interviews the cast of Friends in this hour-long special (1) (4419)

**10.00 Friends: The One Without the Ski Trip (1) (1) (23780)**

**10.30 Whose Line Is It Anyway?** Clive Anderson challenges Stephen Frost, Brad Sherwood, Ryan Stiles and Colin Mochrie to improvise comic routines (1) (92277)

**11.05 Booked David Aaronovitch talks to Gitta Sereny about her controversial book, *Cries Unheard* (143963)**

**11.35 Jo Whalley: rock music and chat (701500)**

**12.25am Under the Moon Sports magazine (75254) 12.00 News (6251) 12.30am The One Without the Ski Trip (1) (1) (23780)**

**2.30 NBA XXL (83939)**

**4.30 Gamesmaster (80216)**

**5.00 Trans World Sport (1192552)**

**or further listings see**

**Monday's Vision**

1

- Tatooine Teenage Alien Fighters Battle 146 (61525) 7.30 News (5219889) 7.45 The Simpsons (113116) 8.00 The Simpsons (113116) 8.15 The Simpsons (113116) 8.30 The Simpsons (113116) 8.45 The Simpsons (113116) 9.00 The Simpsons (113116) 9.15 The Simpsons (113116) 9.30 The Simpsons (113116) 9.45 The Simpsons (113116) 10.00 The Simpsons (113116) 10.15 The Simpsons (113116) 10.30 The Simpsons (113116) 10.45 The Simpsons (113116) 11.00 The Simpsons (113116) 11.15 The Simpsons (113116) 11.30 The Simpsons (113116) 11.45 The Simpsons (113116) 12.00 The Simpsons (113116) 12.15 The Simpsons (113116) 12.30 The Simpsons (113116) 12.45 The Simpsons (113116) 1.00 The Simpsons (113116) 1.15 The Simpsons (113116) 1.30 The Simpsons (113116) 1.45 The Simpsons (113116) 2.00 The Simpsons (113116) 2.15 The Simpsons (113116) 2.30 The Simpsons (113116) 2.45 The Simpsons (113116) 3.00 The Simpsons (113116) 3.15 The Simpsons (113116) 3.30 The Simpsons (113116) 3.45 The Simpsons (113116) 4.00 The Simpsons 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RACING 37

Gulland fails to convince in Chester Vase victory

SPORT

WEDNESDAY MAY 6 1998

SNOOKER 42

How world champion took his cue from Hendry



Stewart agrees to combine captaincy and wicketkeeping duties

England go for safe pair of hands

BY ALAN LEE CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IT MIGHT have happened five years ago and it almost did last autumn, but yesterday, finally, Alec Stewart became the captain of England. He will do the job for the six summer Test matches, against South Africa and Sri Lanka, and, barring a calamity, will surely lead the side to Australia next winter. He is a safe, predictable choice, but not necessarily as short-term as many anticipate. Stewart has never been shy of heavy duties, which is just as well. The plan, agreed with the selectors, is that he will keep wicket in Test matches and bat at either No 3 or No 4. Ronald Stanyforth, 70 years ago, was the last wicketkeeper to be appointed England captain and he lasted only one series. Stewart will be around a little longer. Initially, however, he will return to the ranks in one-day cricket. In a division of duties mirrored yesterday by Australia...



Stewart's image and abilities enabled him to defeat Hussain in the contest to become Atherton's successor as captain of the Test team. Photograph: Adrian Sherratt

Brilliant Bevan ..... 40 Ireland swept aside ..... 40

lia, Adam Holloake. Stewart's Surrey team-mate, has retained the captaincy of the limited-overs team for the Texaco Trophy games against South Africa later this month. Perhaps significantly, Holloake's appointment does not yet extend to the triangular one-day series in August. "I would wish to steer away from the word 'trial', but there is a time gap and this is a realistic measure," David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, said. By August, clearly, Stewart could have complete control. He is being labelled a stopgap for two reasons. He served so long as understudy to Graham Gooch and Michael Atherton that it was generally assumed command had passed him by. He is also ten years older than Atherton was when he inherited the job in 1993. Stewart, though, is a young, extremely fit 35, mightily keen to maximise his belated elevation. He openly draws his inspiration from the

example of Gooch, who captained England until the age of 40, and, unless an outstanding candidate emerges or results are intolerably poor, Stewart could easily be in charge for the millennium. It was the accumulation of disappointing results that finally brought down Atherton, just as it was the absence of natural successors that had helped to sustain him. Even when he resigned, the selectors had nowhere obvious to

turn other than to the faithful lieutenant. Holloake is unsure of a place in the Test team, rightly the first prerequisite and an immediate eliminator for such fringe candidates as Matthew Maynard. Mark Ramprakash could not humanely be burdened so soon after his batting had finally bloomed. Rapidly, it was a two-man race, with Stewart a distance clear. Nasser Hussain, the runner-up, may feel aggrieved as well as disappointed. Graveney said that his phone call to him, breaking the news, was "one of the hardest I have had to make". This is not so much because Hussain feels he was the better man but because he suspects that he was beaten by his own image. This is largely true. Hussain has never quite shed the combustibility of his earlier years and such turbulent traits have no place within the edicts laid out for the job by Lord Mac-

STEWART'S PATH TO POWER

1982: Born April 8, Martin. 1981: Makes Surrey debut. 1982: Makes Test debut for England against West Indies in Jamaica. 1982: Captains England for first time against India in Madras after Graham Gooch falls ill the night before the Test. 1983: Losses out to Michael Atherton as Gooch's successor. 1986: Dropped for home series against India after poor tour of South Africa. Rescued after Nick Knight injures hand and scores 170 at Headingley against Pakistan in second Test back. Makes 783 Test runs in calendar year. 1987: Resigns as Surrey captain after death of Graham Kearsy, the wicketkeeper, saying keeping wicket for county and England would be too much.

Laurin, the chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board. Hussain is also an intense, self-absorbed man, not naturally sensitive to others. His astute cricketing brain may one day make him an outstanding captain, but a sense of inner security must come first. When it comes to conduct on the field, the record of Stewart himself is not unblemished, although his truculence and tendency to question decisions have diminished with maturity. Yet Stewart will carry off

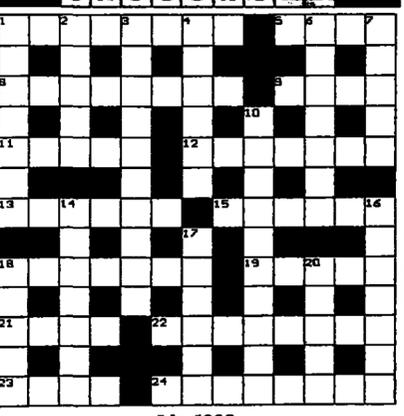
terly condemned a newspaper story that Atherton would henceforth be excluded for being a bad influence. Indeed, Stewart referred to Atherton's comments in The Times on Monday and said: "Michael went on record saying he always captained the team his own way and I intend to do the same." There is, he said, no possibility of "waving a magic wand", as is routinely expected of every new captain. "We have a very hard 12 months ahead of us. We have to seek more consistency," Stewart, who will become a voting member of the selection panel, said. It will be an especially hard year for Stewart now that he has once more agreed to take over the wicketkeeping duties. As Graveney said: "It is always a balancing act to get the best of Alec while doing what is best for the team." The possibility that this

latest adjustment in Stewart's position could lead to an entirely new opening pair was played down by Graveney. "It is a possibility," he conceded, "but we are all hopeful that Atherton will regain his best form. He is a great asset to the national team." Stewart said that he had spoken with Hussain on Monday and expected him to be his vice-captain. One conflict still looms between them, though. Stewart would surely be more comfortable batting at No 4, with some guaranteed rest, rather than at first wicket down, but that is also the preferred position of Hussain — one more sensitive matter for Graveney to arbitrate.

No action likely over bite picture

BY DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT ENGLISH rugby hoped that it could see out this protracted season without violence rearing its head again. It is of little comfort that the allegations of biting which arose after the ill-tempered Allied Dunbar Premiership match between Newcastle and Leicester on Monday will not be drawn out as long as the affair of Simon Fenn's ear. Fenn, the London Scottish flanker, was bitten during a Telford's Blues' Cup match with Bath in January, for which Kevin Yates was later suspended, though the Bath prop maintains his innocence. Yesterday, photographs in the national press suggested that Paul van-Zandvliet, the Newcastle prop, had bitten the head of Neil Back, the Leicester flanker, during Newcastle's 27-10 win. However, Back, while confirming that he had been bitten on the thumb during the game, had no recollection of another bite and it seems unlikely that the incident will be taken further. That decision could rest with Roy Manock, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) disciplinary officer, who may feel that a very ugly image of the game has been portrayed by the violence of the encounter, even if the picture does not reflect the entire story. Yet, in the absence of any complaint from either club or a referee's report, Manock's hands may be tied. Ed Morrison, who officiated in Newcastle, said: "I can't comment on something I didn't see and won't be sending in a report." Newcastle will conduct their own inquiry into the actions of Van-Zandvliet, who yesterday pleaded not guilty at Gateshead Magistrates' Court to a charge of selling counterfeit goods. Back and Leicester officials yesterday studied a video of the match as well as the graphic picture of the incident. "I can't remember being bitten on the head at any stage," Back said. Dean Richards, the Leicester manager, said that the episode was closed so far as his club was concerned. However, Leicester will hold an inquiry into the dismissal of Will Greenwood, their centre, whose tour to the southern hemisphere with England is now in doubt.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1398

- ACROSS 1 Serious setback (4-4) 2 Stout string (4) 3 Financially ruined (8) 4 Refuse (authority) (4) 11 Glaring, sensational (5) 12 Mechanism-damaging imp (7) 13 Render ineffective (6) 15 Urge forward (6) 18 Very light, eggy dish (7) 19 French currency (5) 21 (Official) gown (4) 22 The ordinary bloke (8) 23 A river; sounds like drinks (4) 24 A stiffened muslin (8) DOWN 1 Hanging Gardens city (7) 2 Kind giver (5) 3 Idle and fed up (5,5) 4 Attack, question (in argument) (6) 6 Partly coincide (7) 7 Senior member (of corps) (5) 10 Solid land (5,5) 14 Mutter complaints (7) 15 Unbridled freedom: a permit (7) 17 River creatures; apprentice Scout (6) 18 Strengthening bar; walk proudly (5) 20 Pointed; intended (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1397 ACROSS: 1 Utopia 5 Shod 9 Slavish 10 Aerial 11 Knee-jerk 12 Embody 15 Grille 18 Taciturn 20 Stable 23 Stirrup 23 Tame 24 Depot DOWN: 2 Tisane 3 Peaceful 4 Alliance 6 Heir 7 Demand 8 Shaker 13 Butter up 14 Detest 16 Retort 17 Proper 19 Child 21 Brim

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Shearer likely to face FA charge

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON ALAN SHEARER, the England captain, is likely to be charged today with misconduct by the Football Association. FA officials met yesterday and viewed the video of the FA Carling Premiership match between Leicester City and Newcastle United at Filbert Street last week, in which Shearer was involved in an incident with Neil Lennon, the Leicester midfielder player. Shearer appeared to kick Lennon in the head after the pair had fallen to the ground in the 57th minute. Television replays later confirmed that contact had been made and Lennon needed treatment before resuming. However, Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, said that Shearer should be dealt with in the same way as any player who had allegedly transgressed and that his position as England captain should have no bearing on the disciplinary

process. At the weekend, though, Lennon said that the matter should be dropped. "As far as I'm concerned, this is done and dusted," he said. "I'm disappointed to hear that the FA want to keep it going. I've had this all week and just want to forget about it and concentrate on playing football. I'm fine now and it'll be a shame if the FA charge him." After Newcastle's 3-1 victory against Chelsea on Saturday, Shearer claimed that the clash with Lennon had been accidental. "I've come in for some criticism over the last few days but I've said all along it was an accident," he said. "I was not born with the skills of Best or Pele. My game is commitment and I will not change. I fully realise the pressure I am under and the expectation on me as England captain." Several Premiership clubs are likely to take a keen interest in news yesterday that Gabriel Batistuta, the prolific Fiorentina and Argentina striker, may look for a new club after the World Cup. "I'm not prepared to hang on here and ruin the image which I have in the hearts of Fiorentina fans," Batistuta, 29, said.



Shearer: video evidence

Smith 'offered' £1m fighting fund

LEADING businessmen and industrialists have pledged more than £1 million towards the legal battle facing Michelle Smith, Ireland's triple Olympic champion, who is defending allegations of tampering with a drug test sample that she provided in January, according to the 28-year-old swimmer's father. Speaking from Dublin, Brian Smith said: "There's plenty of money around. £1 million would be a small figure against what businessmen have offered. We're not threatening anyone or waving big sticks. At this stage, we've declined the offers because, as we see it, Michelle has got no case to answer." Smith's urine

sample contained enough alcohol in it to have killed her had it passed through her digestive system, according to the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The £1 million figure was seized on because it is the sum estimated to have been needed by Diane Modahl, the Great Britain athlete, to successfully defend herself against allegations of having taken a banned substance. One of the drug testers involved in Modahl's case, Al Guy, is also involved in Smith's case. Peter Lennon, Smith's solicitor, said: "Without being critical of them, without

all the facts, it does seem rather strange that here you've got a laboratory that was involved in the Diane Modahl case and they're now up to their neck in the Michelle Smith-de Bruin case." In fact, Modahl's sample was tested by the IOC-approved laboratory in Lisbon; Smith's sample was analysed in Barcelona and there has been no evidence to suggest that there was any departure from internationally accepted testing procedures. Lennon also said that the Smith camp had not yet decided whether to have the B sample of the specimen tested. The deadline is May 18.

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